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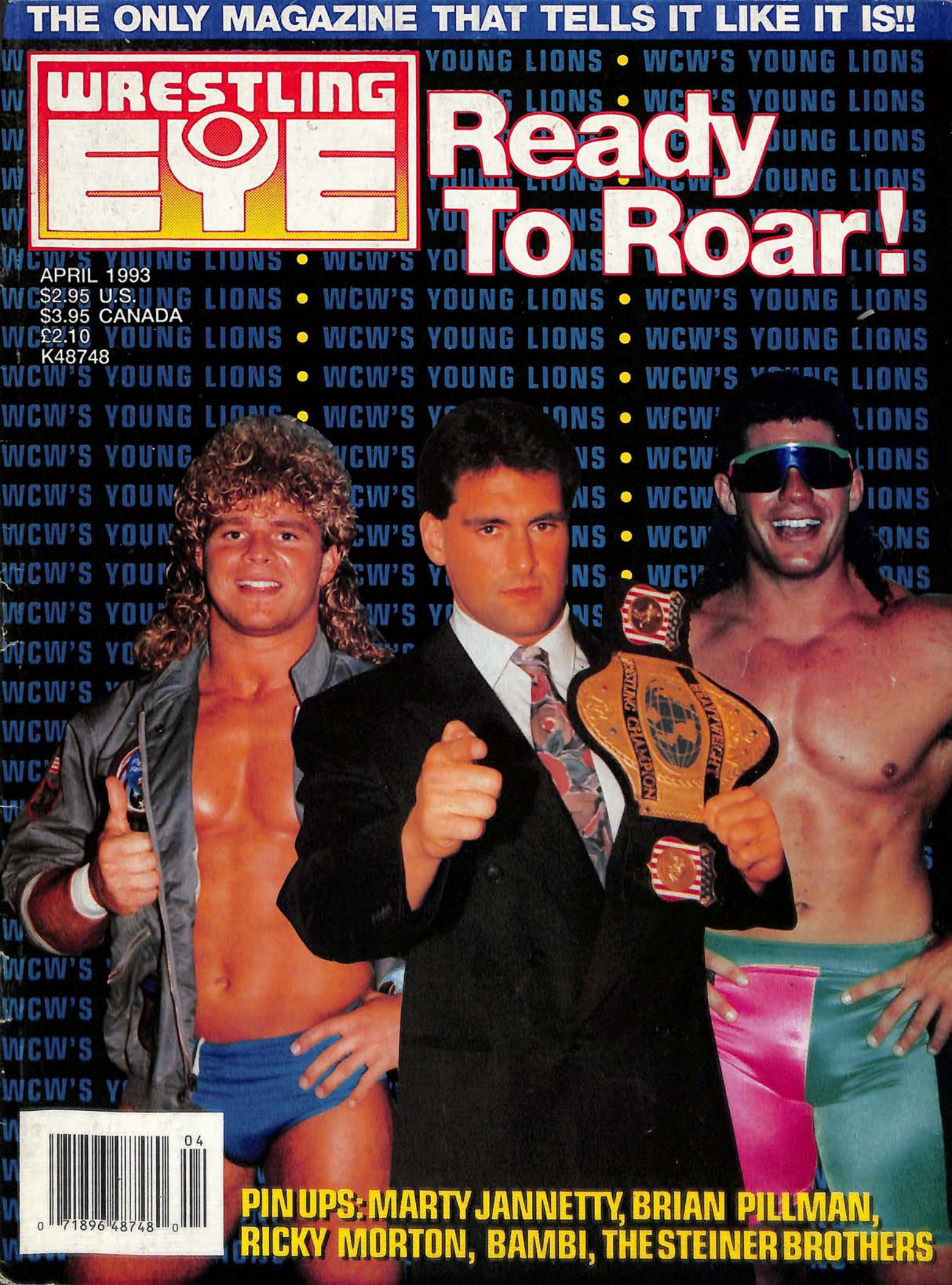

PIN UPS: MARTY JANNETTY, BRIAN PILLMAN, RICKY MORTON, BAMBI, THE STEINER BROTHERS

PHOTO BY JERRY WILSON

Ricky Morton

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SCOTTY FLAMINGO

"HACKSAW" JIM DUGGAN

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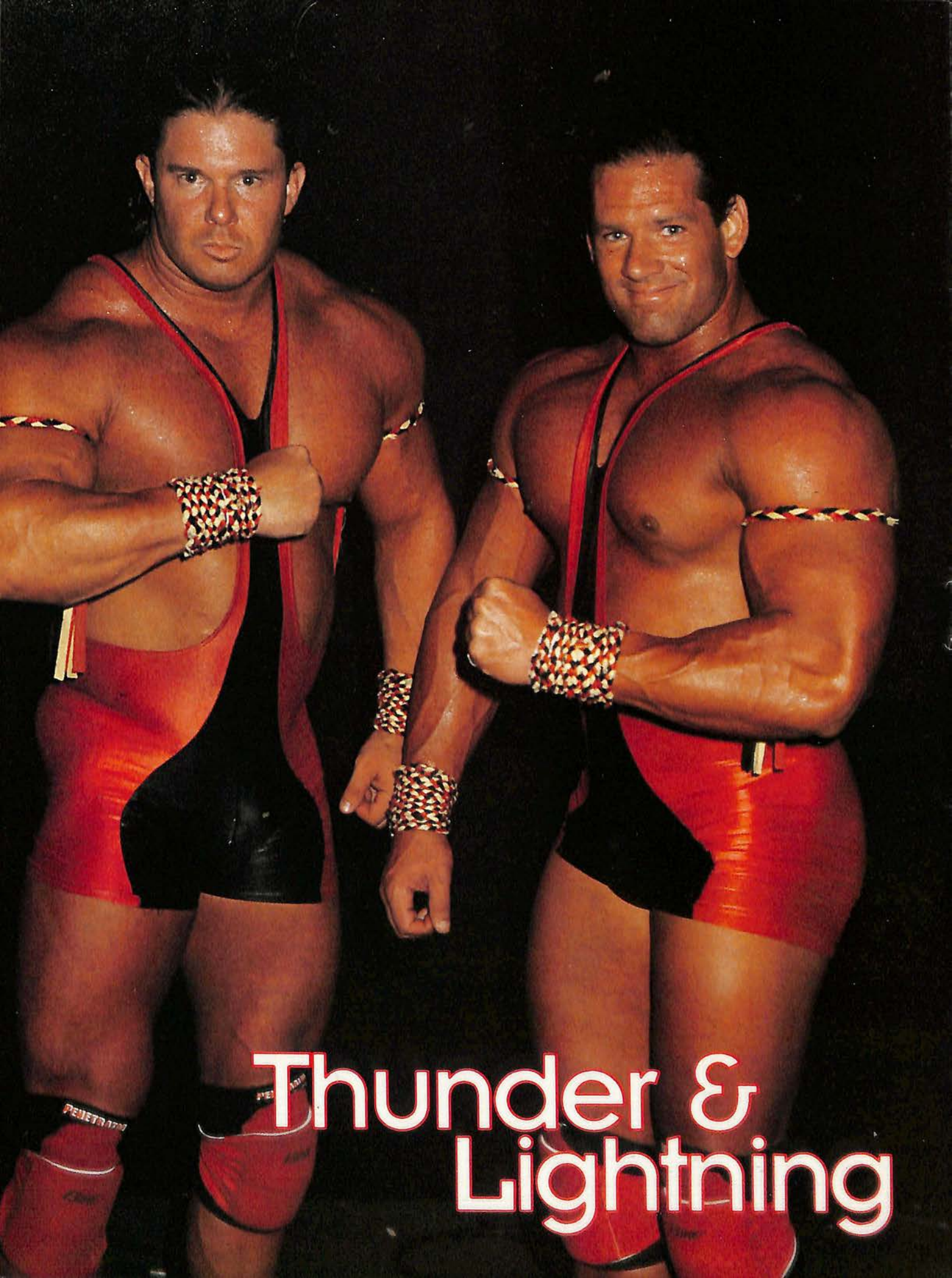

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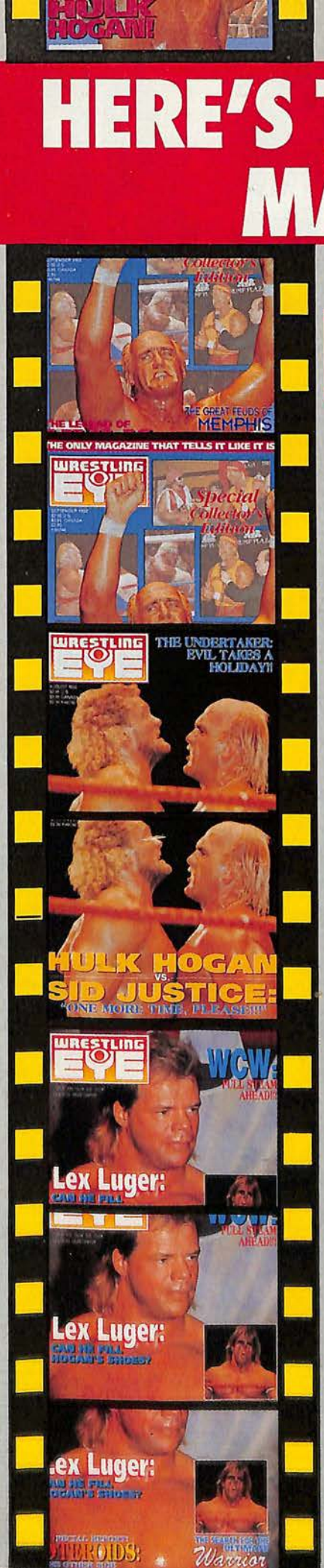

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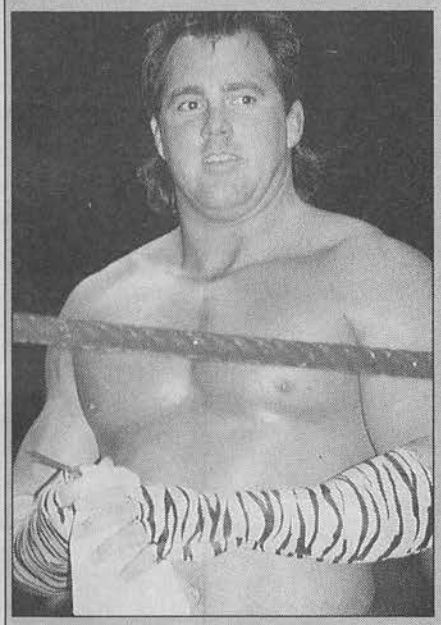
▶Editorial

Where Are They Now?



In professional wrestling talent just comes and goes. One day a top attraction could be wrestling for one of the major groups, the next they drift into what has now been dubbed "wrestling's twilight zone". Compiled in this editorial are some of wrestling's lost personalities.

GREG GAGNE—Former AWA World Tag Team champion and AWA T.V. champion, Greg is a second generation competitor with a legendary last name. Gagne is regarded as one of the most respected names in the business, passed down from his father Verne Gagne who is one of wrestling's living legends. In 1989, Greg disappeared from the scene. Now in 1993, Greg has re-emerged as a creative consultant for World Championship Wrestling.

DR. "D" DAVID SHULTZ—In the mid eighties, David Shultz was possibly the most crazed and belligerent figures in the sport. Say the wrong thing to the good doctor and you could look forward to being laid up in a body cast for numerous weeks. In 1983, David was released from the World Wrestling Federation for slapping 20/20 reporter, John Stossel; an event that is heralded with more scrutiny than the JFK assassination. Since then David has been banned by all the major leagues in pro wrestling. Today, David is a successful bounty hunter in Connecticut.

BRUTUS "THE BARBER" BEEFCAKE—Of course due to an untimely boating accident two years ago, Beefcake is no longer an active wrestler but he is most definitely, still a renown wrestling personality. During his final days with the Federation, Brutus was host of his very own interview segment entitled, "The Barber Shop". Today Brutus is a serious weight trainer and entrepreneur. In the upcoming months Brutus hopes to open a Gold's Gym in Massachusetts.

THE HONKY TONK MAN—Former Intercontinental Champion the Honky Tonk Man gained top notoriety with the World Wrestling Federation two years back, then disappeared. Today Honky enjoys semi-retirement and wrestles for various independent promotions on the weekends. During the week, Honky concerns himself with his own business, which is a college placement agency.

DORY FUNK, JR.—Former NWA World's Heavyweight Champion is a literal legend in the annals of the sport. Not retired just yet, Dory still sees action in Japan for a majority of the year for Giant Baba's All Japan Pro Wrestling. When he's not wrestling, Dory's busy in the real estate business.

DR. JERRY GRAHAM—A member of a legendary wrestling family, Graham formed one of the most memorable tag teams in wrestling history with his "brothers" Eddie and Crazy Luke Graham. Today Graham enjoys retired life in Southern California, but still dons the tights on occasion to wrestle for local independent groups.

GENE KINISKI—Former NWA World's champion, Kiniski is regarded as one of the sport's all time greats. When it came to brawling, Kiniski excelled. If a match called for a scientific approach, Kiniski was equally as successful. Today Kiniski lives in Washington State and keeps himself in tip top physical condition. In fact, Kiniski has even returned to the ring on a few occasions this past year. □

Yours In Sport,

Hubie Marx
Editor In Chief

WCW's Young Rea

BY GEOFF DALE

Are the young lions of the WCW set to roar with discontent?

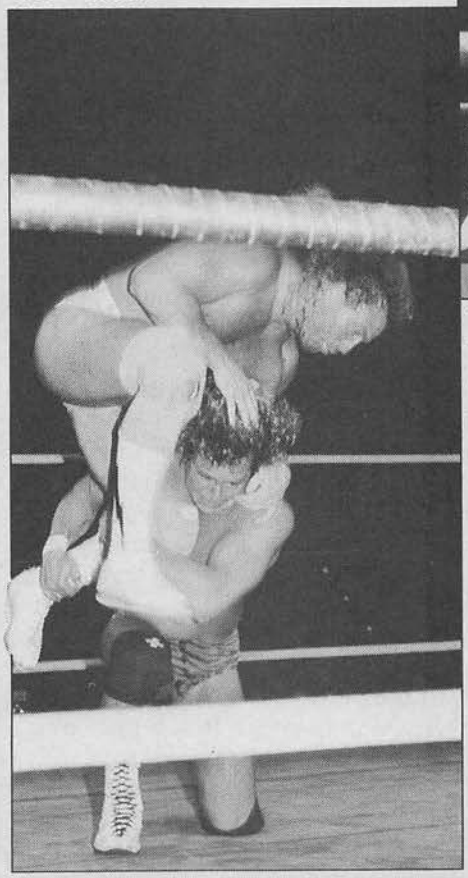
Some wrestling insiders suggest that might be the case if that promotion's head honcho Cowboy Bill Watts continues to spotlight son Erik, over a host of other promising young grapplers. And, at this stage of their crucial redevelopment, WCW clearly does not need another round of bad press about bungling and mismanagement.

Cowboy Bill probably has good reason to promote his son. Family loyalty is likely the first, closely followed by a firm belief that the young man can rise to the top—with a little helping hand, that is. It's no secret that the WCW has more new and fresh talent than the rival WWF. Young Erik is arguably among that crop but hopefully the powers that be are aware he is not their only shining star.

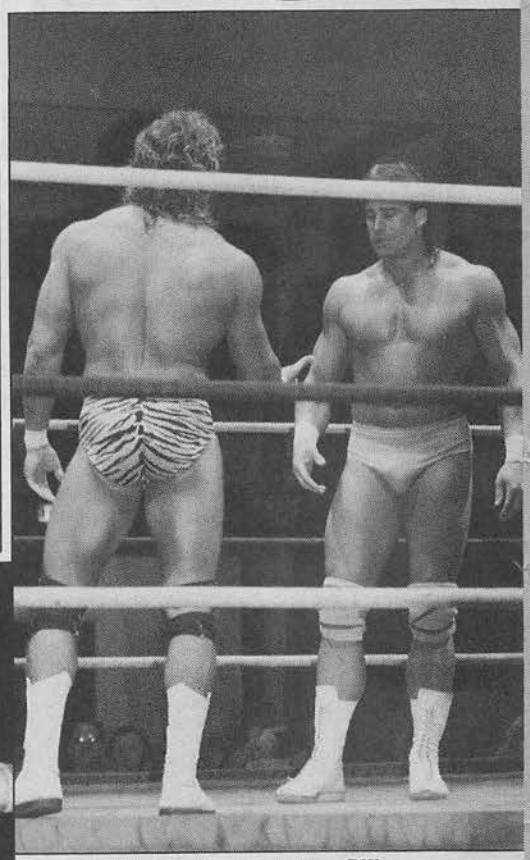
While WCW may lack some promotional skills, they surely take the cake when it comes to raw talent. Going heavy on the skills end of the sport and playing down the outlandish gimmickry and downright silly theatrics that Vince and the boys wallow in is just the ticket to make the Cowboy the savior of WCW.

But let's remember those other names—in addition to Watts, that could make WCW numero uno. Young talent like Dustin Rhodes (promoted heavily we might add by father Dusty the American Dream), Marcus Alexander Bagwell, Johnny B. Badd, Brian Pillman, Tom Zenk, Diamond Dallas Page, Shane Douglas, Brad Armstrong, Scotty Flamingo, Steve Austin, Van Hammer and probably a few more right around the corner.

JOHNNY B. BADD hasn't been on the scene for that long but during his short tenure he's gained a lot of exposure and admiring critiques as both a villainous rulebreaker and a fan favorite. Strip away the Little Richard garb, the blowing of kisses and the glitter and you'll find real wrestling ability in Badd. Just ask the likes of "Stunning" Steve Austin and countless others who have fought the youngster as he rapidly climbed the WCW ranks.



Flyin' Brian and Brad Armstrong battle.



The Z-Man squares off against Pillman.

Unlike some of his contemporaries, Badd has a lot more going for him than a good gimmick and flashy personality. As one of the energetic light heavyweights—a division tailor-made for him, he has an impressive arsenal of holds that could subdue any opponent. On top of that he possesses some pretty impressive boxing skills as well. As Mark Merr (Badd's real name) he scored a decisive KO win over fellow golden gloves competitor, and now top heavyweight contender, Razor Ruddock. It's a triumph that only Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis can brag of in the professional arena.

ng Lions dy To Roar!

Shane Douglas whips Diamond Dallas Page off the ropes.

Right up there among the top young light heavies is **FLYIN' BRIAN PILLMAN**, a contender who made his name initially as a hero of a largely young audience. Oddly enough, after his altercation with one time friend, Brad Armstrong at last year's Clash of the Champions XX, he has still maintained a surprisingly high profile.

It may no longer be an adoring public watching his every move but it is certainly one that admires and respects his high flying skills just the same. Whatever route Pillman decides to take, he can make life miserable for opponents like Johnny B. Badd, Brad Armstrong, Tom "Z-Man" Zenk and Jushin Liger (from whom he won the belt). Brian is no quitter. Consider the times he wrestled against Sid Vicious and The Four Horseman when he was in severe pain from crippling injuries. Maybe that's the root of the problem with former ally Armstrong.

The bad blood between Pillman and Armstrong may just bring out the best in the latter. Like Flying Brian (a one-time Canadian football star) **BRAD ARMSTRONG** has the kind of high energy skills that can excite a crowd in a moment. His roots should also play a large part in his rise to the top rope of WCW—he is the son of Bob "The Bullet" Armstrong.

Brad isn't about to be written out of the picture. Not even a slap across the face from ex-buddy Pillman on live television can keep him from moving ahead.

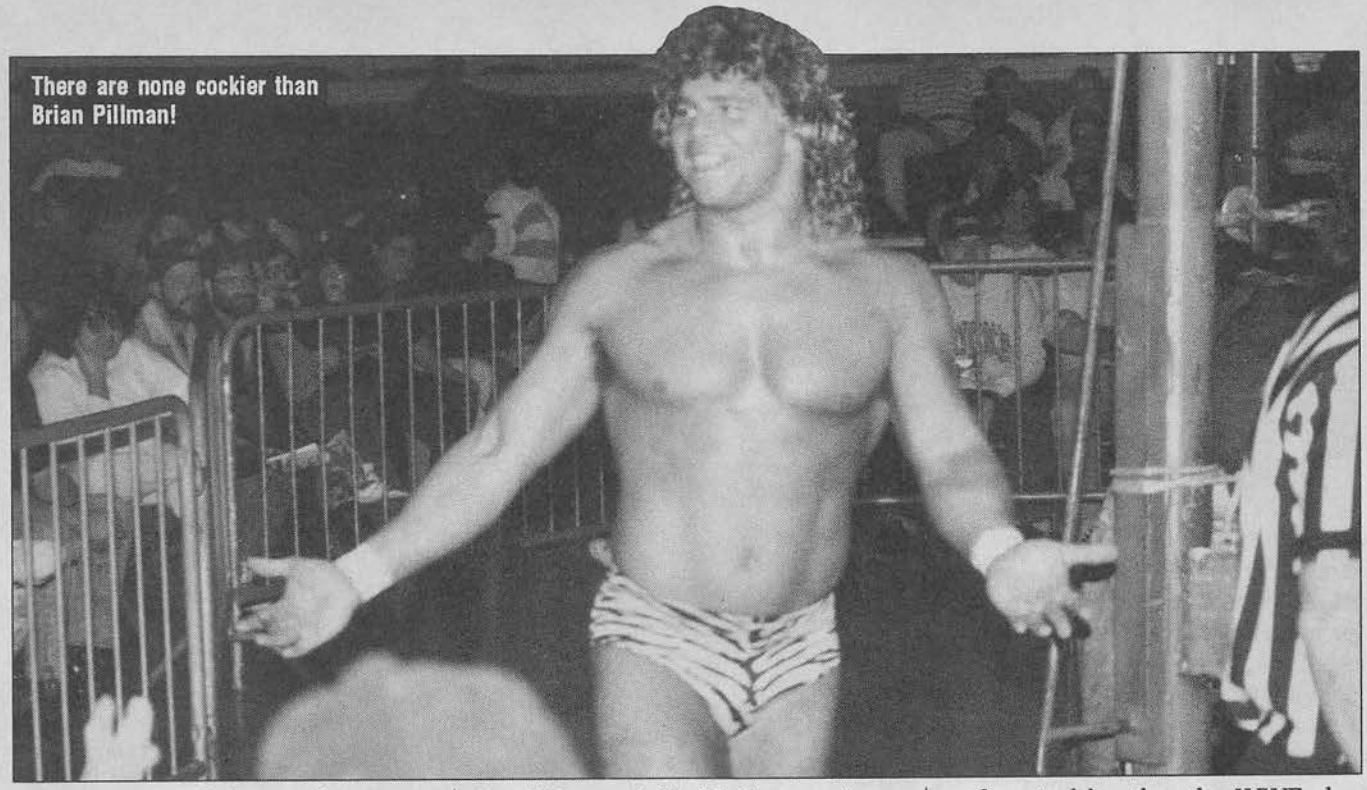
TOM ZENK belongs in that youthful stable that includes Pillman and Armstrong. Agile, talented and a proponent of genuine grappling skills, he has been a frequent resident of the top 10 WCW mat masters. Further battles with Flyin' Brian would be sure fire winners for the promotion.

Once **VAN HAMMER** and his advisors (?) determine that rock and roll should take second place to wrestling, he will likely go places in short order. His matches with Cactus Jack, J.T. Southern and Abdullah the Butcher drew impressive crowds and lent support to the notion that he may one day be a title contender.

He may have lost his share of matches in the past but he has the resilience to bounce back. The problem here is that Van Hammer seems more intent in proving he is a great rock and roll guitarist, instead of demonstrating those considerable grappling moves. Let's face it, the Rockers are long dead...so leave the rocking to the Springsteens and Jacksons of the world and concentrate on the job at hand.

Another young lion worth watching is **MARCUS A. BAGWELL**. Arriving on the WCW's doorstep after stints with the Georgia All-Star federation and Global, he came boasting a fistful of titles, moves and name changes (Fabian, The Handsome Stranger). Trained by Sting, he has duked it out with Terry Taylor (Made Man) and virtually all of the Dangerous Alliance.

Unfortunately recent ventures have seen Bagwell coming out on the short end of the stick. More patience and a greater variety of



There are none cockier than Brian Pillman!

maneuvers may help out the youngster in the future.

WCW should also consider investing some more time and exposure to one of it's most promising young mat stars around—**SCOTTY FLAMINGO**. Wavering between villain and good guy, he's had his shares of ups and downs. After arriving on the scene from the Pacific Northwest and Global outfits, Scotty has racked up victories over some tough competition like Pillman and former Global foe Fabian (Bagwell). Unfortunately, he has also lost out to notables like Badd.

Many suggest his brash behavior in and out of the ring could leave him of the title picture. But then again consider the loud talkers who have walked away with championships in the past—Ted DiBiase, Rick Rude and "Nature Boy" Ric Flair, to name a few. It can be done and Flamingo, a talented battler, may be just the one to do it one more time.

With an impressive background as broadcast commentator, manager and wrestler, **DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE** has got to be considered to be the most rounded individual of this crowd. He knows the inner workings of the game from all angles, having managed the AWA tag team champs Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond (Badd Company) and WCW's Freebirds. He transformed Scott Hall to the Diamond Studd (now strutting his stuff in WWF as Razor Ramon). Page also did color commentary and not that long ago began duty as a grappler.

Whether he makes it in the big time will likely be more due to how much exposure he gets and what kind of opponents he comes up against, not on the skills he brings into the ring. At this point he appears to be taking his latest venture one step at a time. And while he may have been around the mat game for awhile, he certainly qualifies as one of the young new bloods. If he gets the proper push and his face becomes a permanent fixture on national WCW telecasts, look for Diamond Dallas to become a star and probable title holder in no time flat.

Another experienced youngster, touted as a great prospect in both the WWF and WCW at different stages in his career, is **SHANE DOUGLAS**. The reason he opted out of (or was ushered out of) the WWF has to be fairly obvious. He has all the high flying skills of a quality wrestler and the looks that appeal to a young audience. The problem in that federation is that he clearly opted for talent over voodoo masks, coffins or clown outfits. And besides, the WWF already boasts a small company of scientific wrestlers like Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Bret Hart, Shawn Michaels and Curt (Mr. Perfect) Hennig, albeit with a good measure of showmanship thrown in.

That's where Cowboy Bill could jump in, promote Shane as a singles prospect or even team him up with a partner that would compliment or offset his particular brand of wrestling.

"STUNNING" STEVE AUSTIN is no stranger to the squared circle, although he still has to be counted in as one of the premiere attractions in the youth movement. His stay in WCW, much of it spent as a rulebreaker with Paul E. Dangerously and the notorious Dangerous Alliance, has netted him a good share of accolades, not to mention the odd title thrown in for good measure.

Austin has got the necessary skills coupled with the uncanny knowledge on when to bend the rules. In fact, he's got an abundance of ring smarts that would put him in good standing as either a fan favorite or one of those who usually find themselves listed in the most hated section of wrestling publications. Love him or hate him, The Stunning One is simply too good to ignore.

Johnny Gunn is ready to do battle in WCW.

Another young lion who's seen action in both the big leagues is **DUSTIN RHODES**. While many felt he was riding on his father's coattails while laboring in the WWF (the association with Dusty sure didn't hurt), he has come into his own in WCW. Titles (with or without partners) have become second nature to this strapping youngster.

Chances are if Rhodes is left out in the cold, looking for decent competition or television exposure, he may just decide to bolt to another federation that appreciates his contributions. Another young lion waiting eagerly to spring back into action.

So the names are all there in black and white. They're young, talented and could bring some much needed prestige to the sagging fortunes of WCW. Surely the future of the promotion isn't about the rest on the shoulders of one man or a family alone. WCW has an amazing stable of solid performers looking for the right kind and amount of exposure and the arena to sell those highly touted skills in. Besides if all those young lions are kept hungry and growling for too long, we all know how dangerous it would be to enter that den. □

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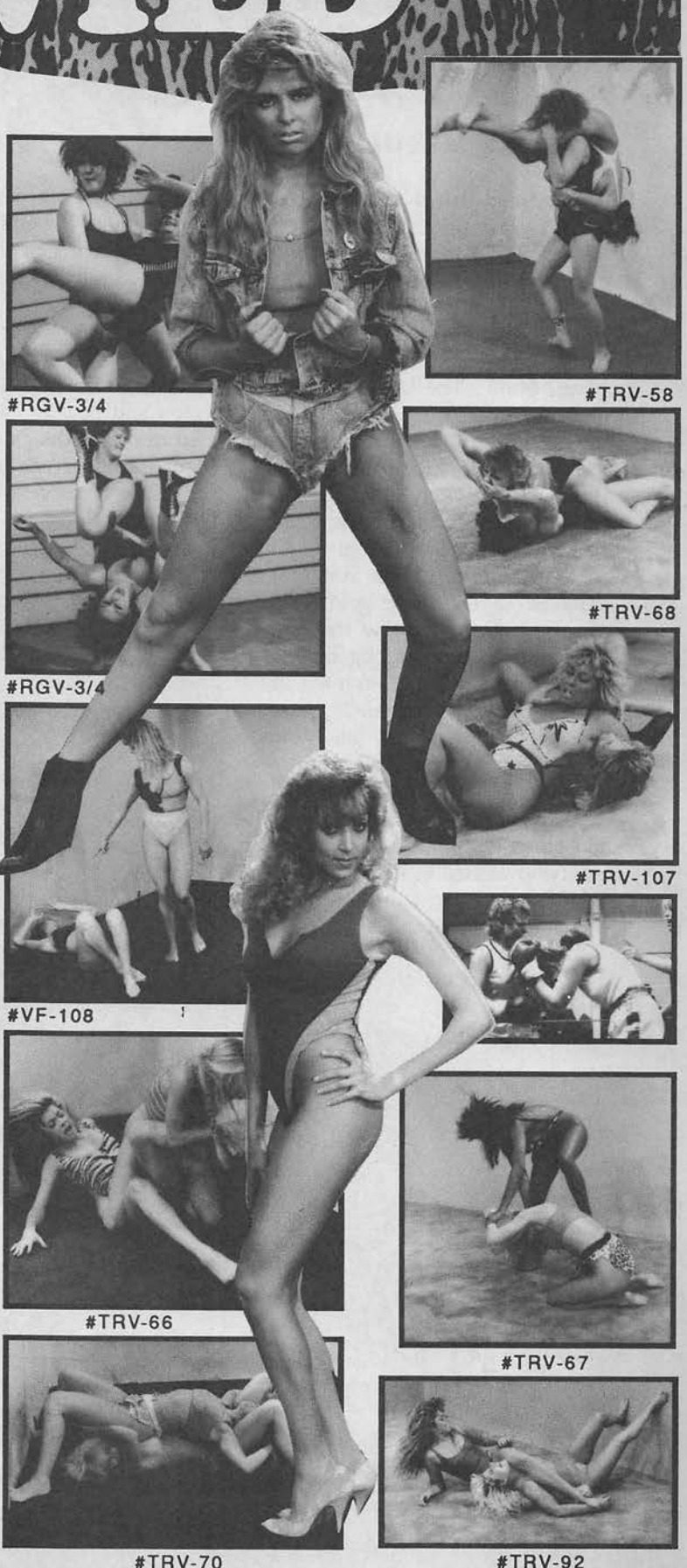

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Sting: CATCH

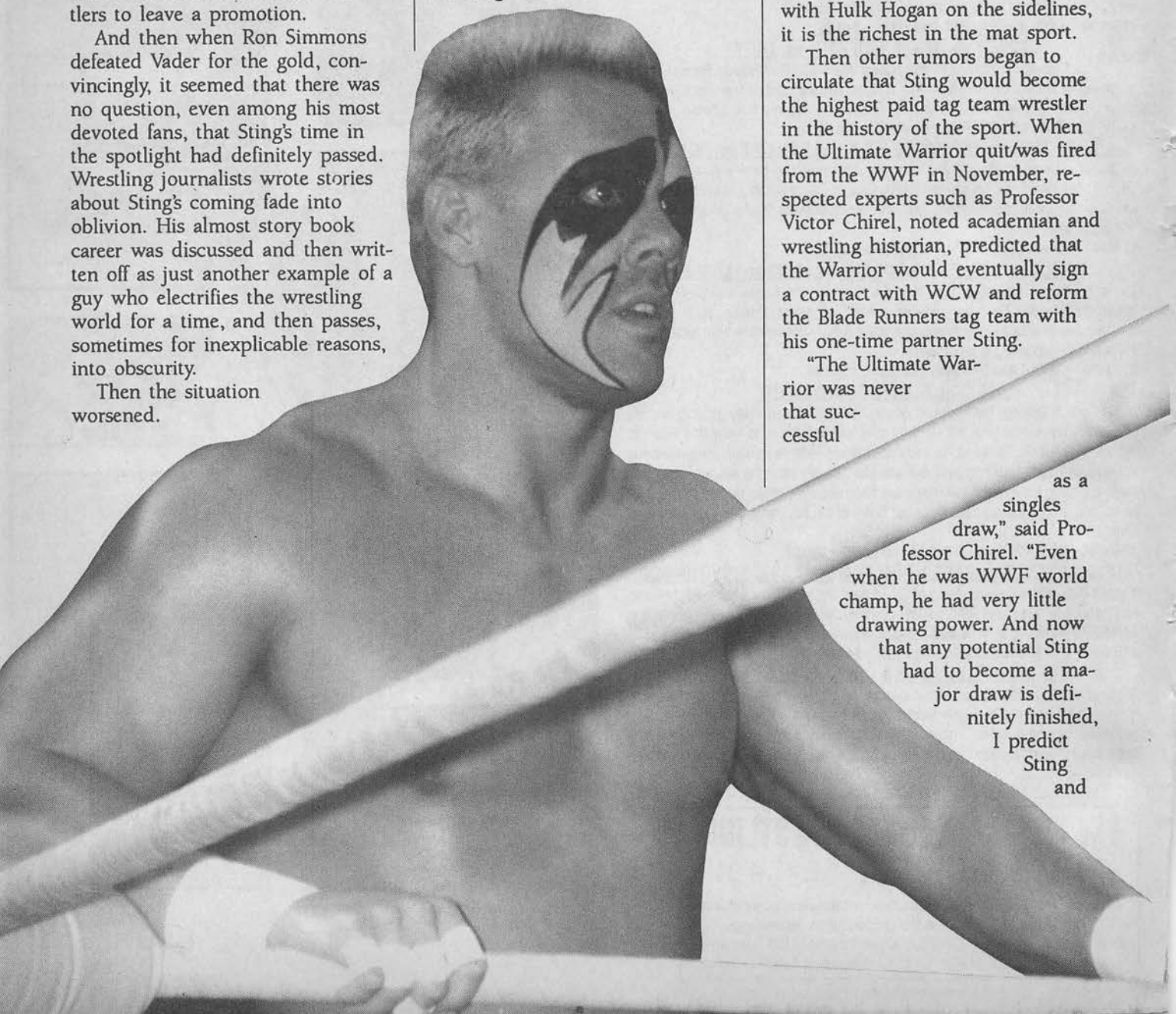
By Steve Mueller

It seemed that when Sting lost his WCW world title to Big Van Vader, he lost more than just a championship belt. He lost his reputation and his status. In that match's conclusion, the Stinger was literally destroyed by Van Vader's power bomb. The face painted gladiator was so completely beaten by Vader that it seemed his run as a major star in American wrestling rings was definitely finished. It was the kind of loss that forces wrestlers to leave a promotion.

And then when Ron Simmons defeated Vader for the gold, convincingly, it seemed that there was no question, even among his most devoted fans, that Sting's time in the spotlight had definitely passed. Wrestling journalists wrote stories about Sting's coming fade into oblivion. His almost story book career was discussed and then written off as just another example of a guy who electrifies the wrestling world for a time, and then passes, sometimes for inexplicable reasons, into obscurity.

Then the situation worsened.

Sting's lackluster performance against Jake Roberts at Halloween Havoc in a match that has come to be universally labeled as a travesty only seemed to cement the speculation that Sting's star had crashed. After all, the face painted gladiator had had two runs as world champion and neither had been successful draws at the gate. And drawing fans into an arena is the only true measure of success in the modern wrestling world.



Rumors began to circulate that Sting was headed to the World Wrestling Federation. On the "Pro Wrestling Today" television talk show in New York, it seemed every other question asked by a fan was "When is Sting going to the WWF?" Insiders, however, knew there was no chance that Sting would suddenly appear on "Superstars", brandishing a tube of make-up, and proclaiming himself to be the "Real Grease-painted Hero." Sting's contract with WCW is both ironclad and Watts- proof, and, with Hulk Hogan on the sidelines, it is the richest in the mat sport.

Then other rumors began to circulate that Sting would become the highest paid tag team wrestler in the history of the sport. When the Ultimate Warrior quit/was fired from the WWF in November, respected experts such as Professor Victor Chirel, noted academian and wrestling historian, predicted that the Warrior would eventually sign a contract with WCW and reform the Blade Runners tag team with his one-time partner Sting.

"The Ultimate Warrior was never that successful as a singles draw," said Professor Chirel. "Even when he was WWF world champ, he had very little drawing power. And now that any potential Sting had to become a major draw is definitely finished, I predict Sting and

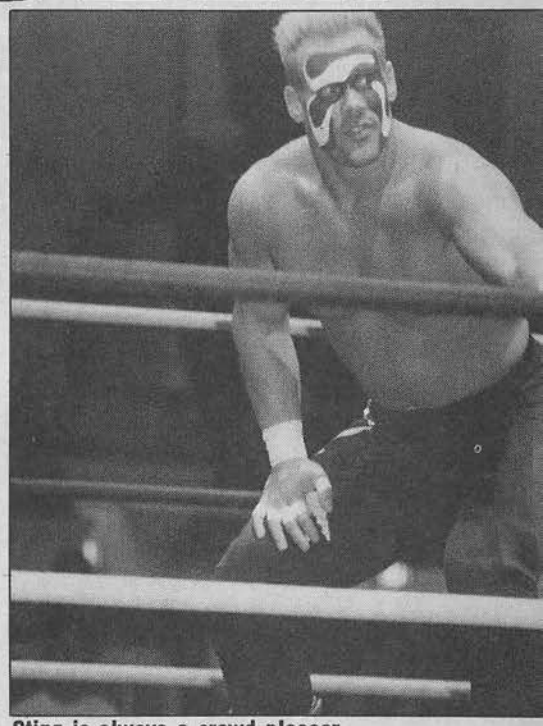
HIS RISING STAR!!

the Warrior will become a team again in the hope of salvaging their careers. Together, Sting and the Ultimate Warrior have the chance to become the Road Warriors of the nineties. Individually, at least in the majors, their careers are over."

For a time, most insiders and experts agreed with Professor Chirel. Rumors surfaced weekly that, after he appeared on a few independent shows as "the Man Who Used to be Called the Ultimate Warrior" because of WWF contractual restrictions, the Warrior was about to join WCW. Like Professor Chirel, longtime fans remembered the Blade Runners, the vehicle through which Sting and the Warrior first came if not to national prominence, then at least to national attention.

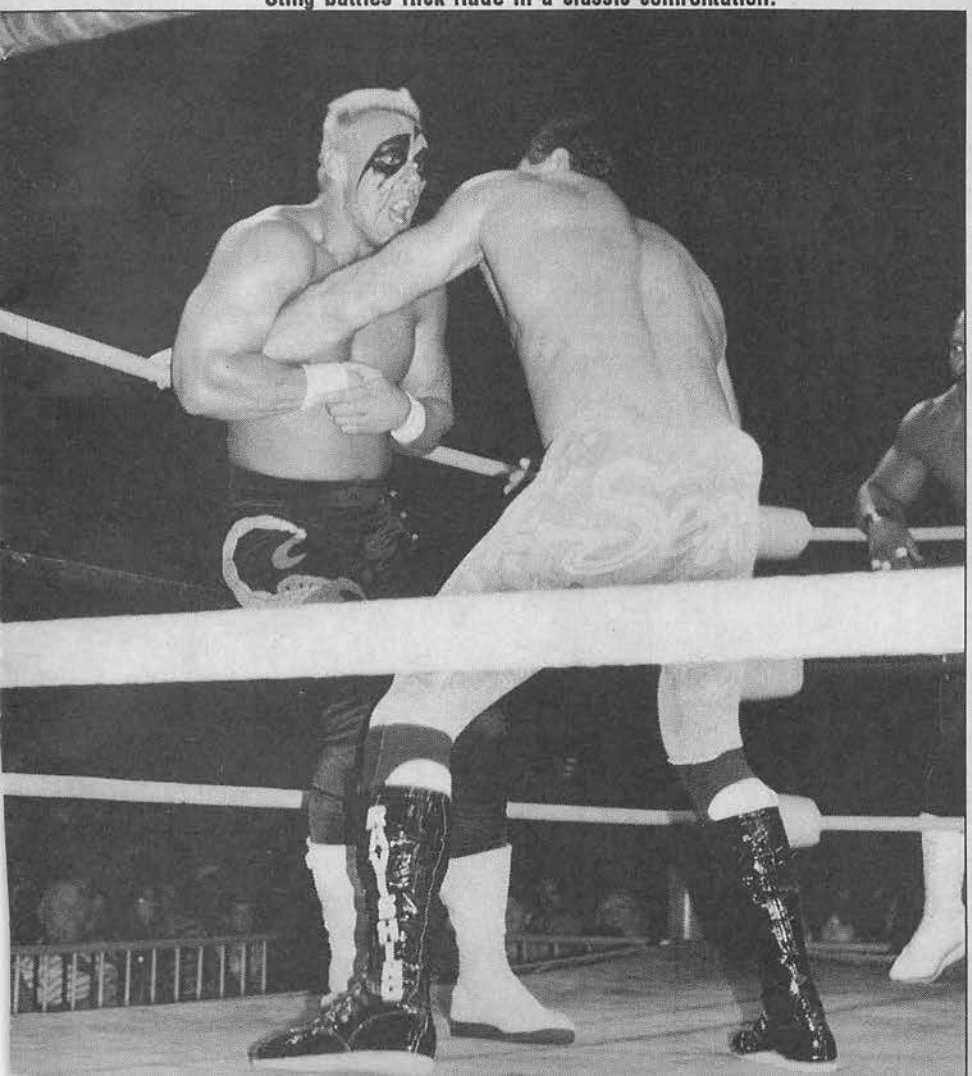
In the mid-eighties, Cowboy Bill Watts brought the face- painted duo to his legendary Mid-South promotion and the rest is history. Since Watts is now head honcho at WCW, it is easy to see how speculation arose that the Blade Runners team would be reformed, perhaps under another name.

And many experts thought the reformation of the Blade Runners was a good idea. "Frankly, I'm tired of Sting," said veteran ringside physician Dr. Gary Dunn. "As far as I'm concerned, and I've been studying the mat sport for over thirty years, Sting no longer has a future as a singles star. As for the Ultimate Warrior, I'm not sure he ever had a future as a real star in singles competition. However, put Sting and the Warrior together and you have some real possibilities. The whole, in this case, would surely be greater than the sum of its parts."



Sting is always a crowd pleaser.

"I agree with Doctor Dunn," says Kim Hostetler, screen actress and wrestling fan. "I always thought Sting's talents were more suited to tag team competition. When you think about it, Sting and that Ulti-



Sting battles Rick Rude in a classic confrontation.

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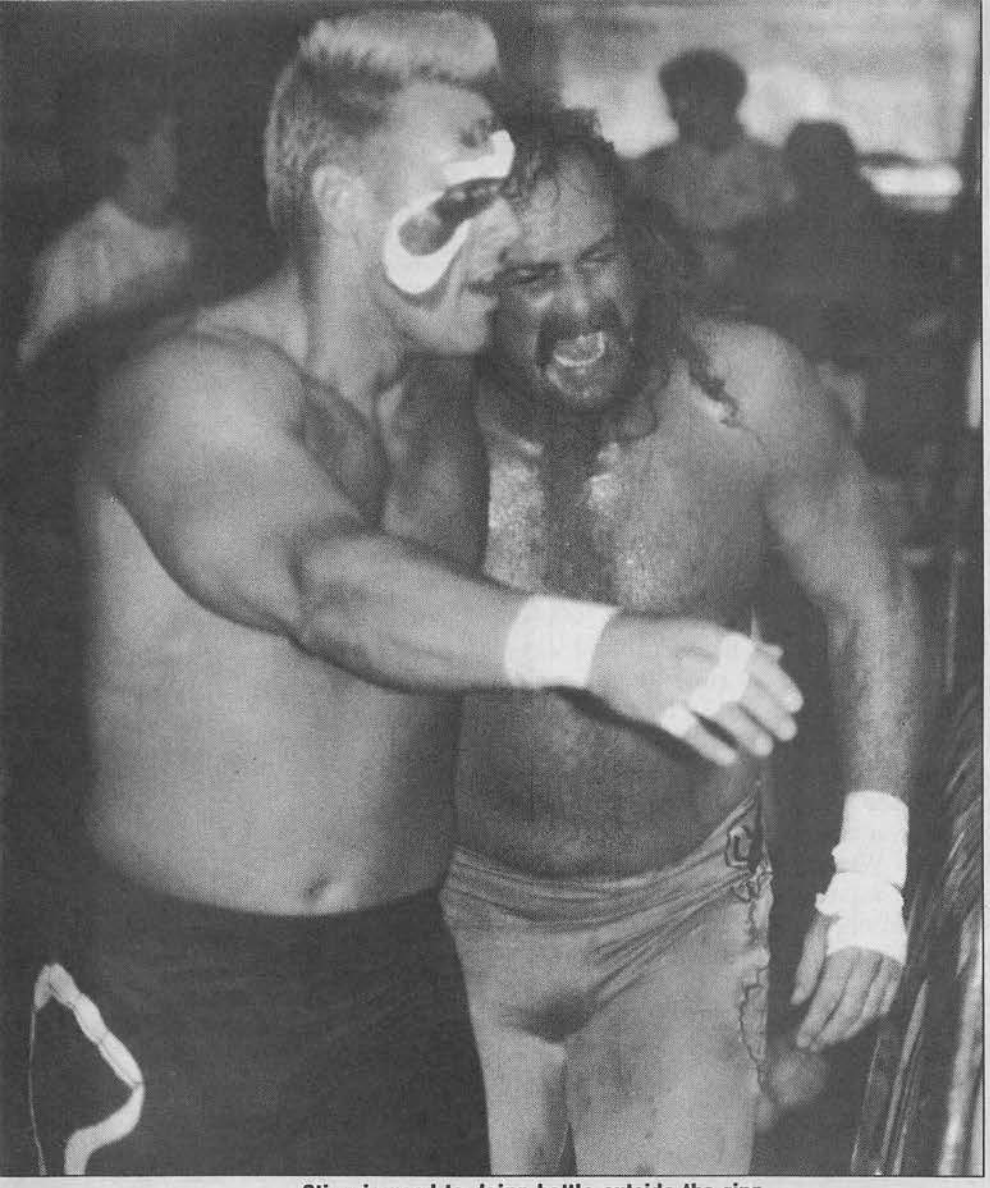


Sting is used to doing battle outside the ring.

mate Fellow have basically the same blend of as the legendary Road Warriors. Sting has the high flying aerial skills like Hawk. The Warrior would be the power guy on the team just like Animal. Hey, Cowboy Bill Watts should get this going right away."

But as Christmas 1992 came and went, and speculation began to grow that Bill Watts might not be around WCW much longer because the promotion was sinking deeper and deeper into red ink, it became obvious that the Warrior was not going to join WCW. The inside story was that WCW could not give the Warrior the kind of contract he demanded—one that paid big bucks. Bill Watts' austerity program had eliminated large guaranteed contracts. The Warrior just laughed at WCW's offers.

It seemed that a reunion with the Warrior was not going to save Sting's career. The second most famous wrestler from Venice Beach seemed doomed to fade into the shadowy world of oblivion. Then a strange thing began to happen.

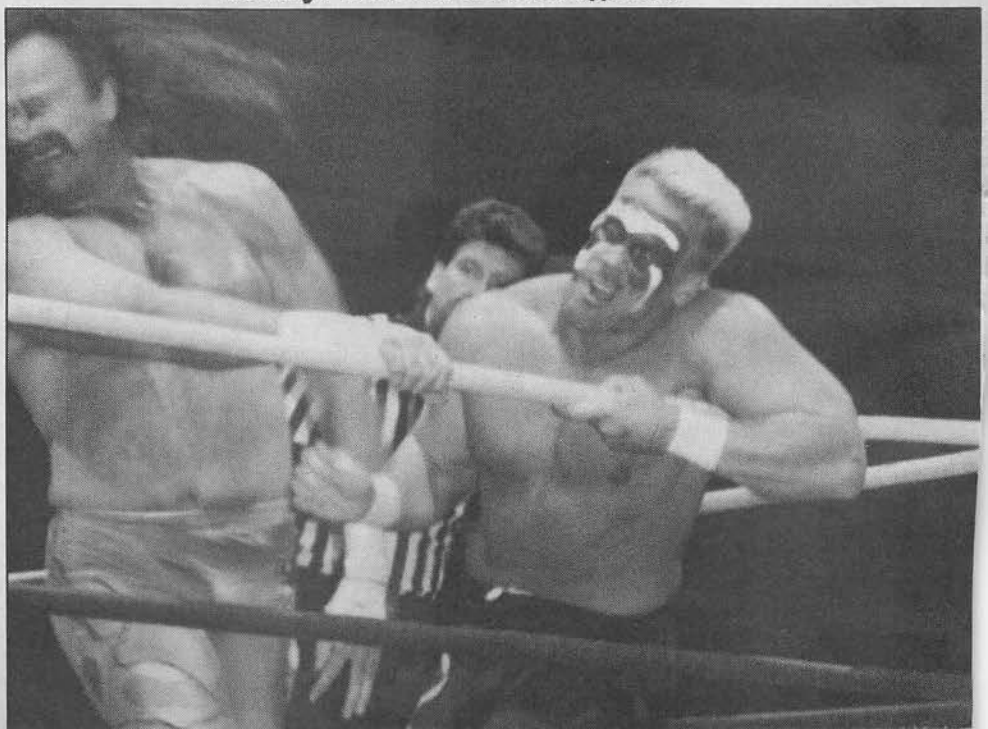
Sting, though it happened very slowly at first, began to recapture some of the magic that had electrified fans earlier in his career. His matches became more focused and he began using more of the aerial style that had been his trademark before a serious knee injury had almost ended his career.

Amazingly, suddenly it wasn't just kids and young women who were chanting Stings's name at ringside. Hardcores joined the chorus. Somehow, being cast in the role of the underdog had done wonders for Sting's charisma. Facing adversity and not giving up had made him kind of a "People's Champion."

A series of glitzy wins, and like unexpected lightning, Sting was back near the top of his profession.

In December and January, TV ratings of WCW programs began a return to respectability. Silent hope is growing in the executive offices of Turner Broadcasting that WCW may indeed still have a future on TBS. And it is no accident that this rise in the ratings coincides with Sting's own return to prominence. The coming months will tell the story not only of Sting's future, but of the future of WCW itself. Stay tuned, this one is going to get interesting. □

The Stinger knows how to hurt his opponents.



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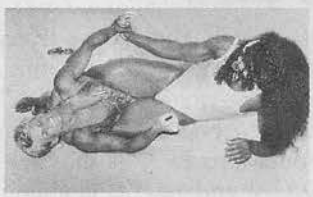

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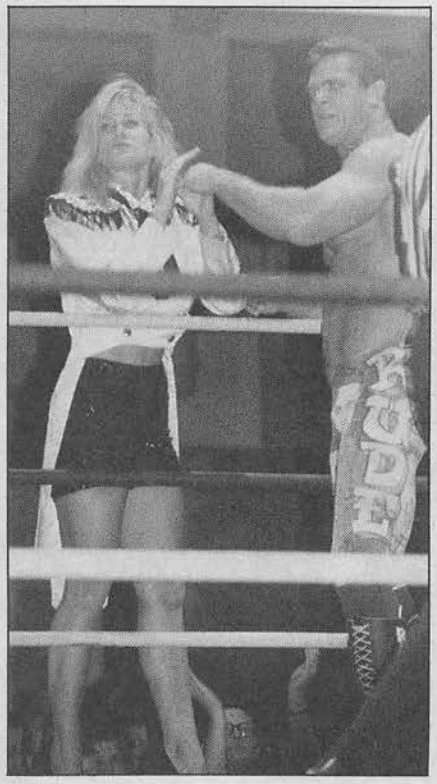


Madusa pats the hand that feeds her.

BY GEOFF DALE

"Ravishing" Rick Rude and Madusa Miceli bound for greatness in WCW? Impossible would probably be the most common reaction to that strange sounding scenario. You might also find a smattering of "not a chance", "when pigs fly" or "never in our lifetime" to the suggestion that two of the most successful villainous duos around turn over a new kinder and gentler leaf.

On the surface that's exactly the kind of responses such a seemingly illogical suggestion would provoke. After all, Rude has garnered one of the most notorious reputations in both the WWF and WCW and, over the years, has enjoyed several titles while bending the rules for his own satisfaction. So, why drop a good thing now?

The same picture can be painted for Madusa. During her career as a female grappler (which continues to some degree, despite WCW's apparent total abandonment of the ladies division) she was usually on the other side of law and order. A terror in the ring, endowed with beauty, skill and a tendency to throw the rule book out of the window, she took exactly those attributes to WCW when the old AWA fell apart. There she has carved out a remarkable career as a treacherous manager/valet (?) for Rude and company. So again we ask—why abandon guaranteed success?

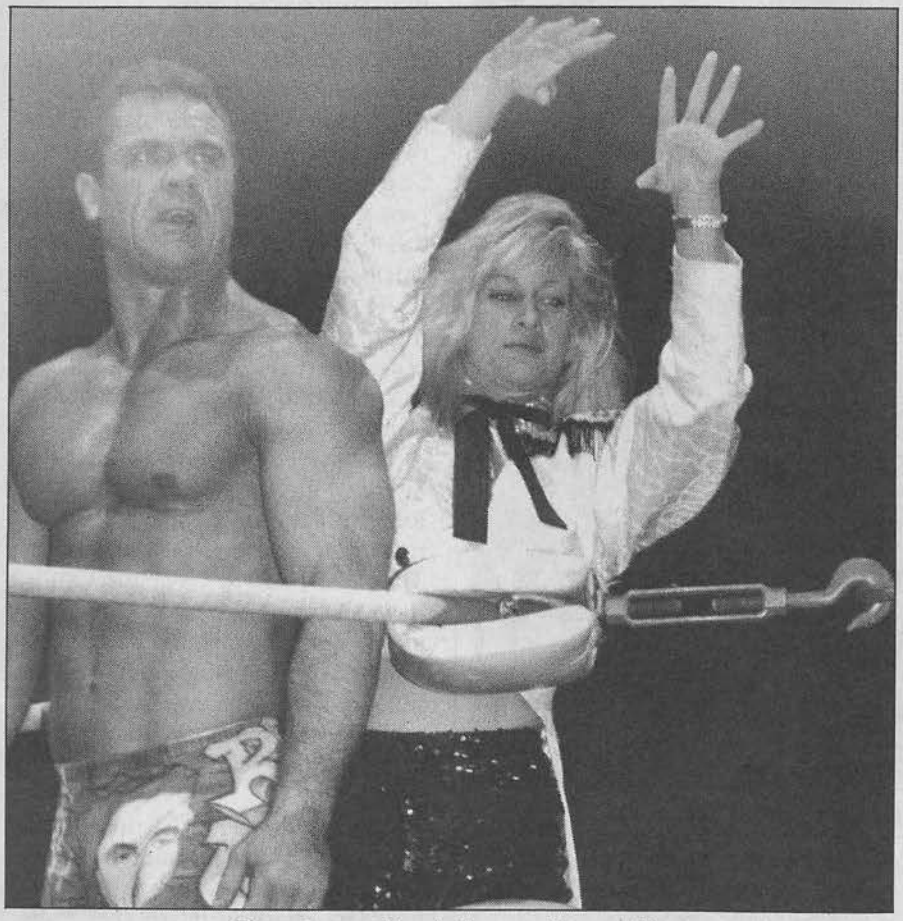
While the evidence isn't all in, there are definite signs that the promotion's head honchos may be considering the duo in a different light these days. Consider the following developments in past months; a break up with Paul E. Dangerously and the subsequent demise of the Dangerous Alliance, a generous helping of Rude on regular telecasts and the inordinate amount of media coverage the Ravishing One has been getting in both the print and electronic media. Who says a leopard can't change its spots?

Rude is, after all, an extremely talented wrestler, arguably the best WCW has had to offer since "Nature Boy" Ric Flair jumped ship and set up shop with WWF marketing genius, Vince McMahon. Rick hasn't always been an out and out bad guy and with polished moves like the Rude Awakening he could easily come away from the ring as much a hero as a heel.

While managed by Dangerously, Rude constantly complained of wrestlers like Sting avoiding him and ducking from his championship obligations. During his tenure, both as a challenger and U.S. champ, he has ducked no one. Many of his match ups with Ricky "the Dragon" Steamboat are rightfully considered classics. He has given Sting many tough bouts and has taken on the best, usually those outside of his closely knit circle of allies.

Still, one has to wonder whether his long association with Dangerously was all that profitable. Sure, he nabbed himself a title along the way but how much of Dangerously's antics hurt Rude?

ver A New Leaf?



These two could rule the wrestling world.

Also, did Paul's intense concentration on his Dangerous Alliance hurt Rude as a solo performer? So, the question still remains, how far would the Ravishing One go as a babyface? To the top we venture, either as a singles grappler or part of a high profile tag team.

Madusa certainly fits into this picture nicely, she's the last missing piece in this jigsaw puzzle if you like. While she has enjoyed the juicy role of a conniving manager who specializes in running interference for her man, she would probably do just as well with a fan favorite or a tag team. The adulation would be hers for the taking.

Of course, the avenue offering the most for Madusa would be one of the major federations recognizing the women's division once again. Sure there are the independents to fall back on, but both the WWF and WCW along with the female grapplers would benefit from such a resurgence. Without question, Miceli would be a dominant figure, much as she was with the old AWA. Wendi Richter, Heidi Lee Morgan, Candy Divine, Susan Sexton and a host of others might provide worthy competition but Madusa would reign supreme.

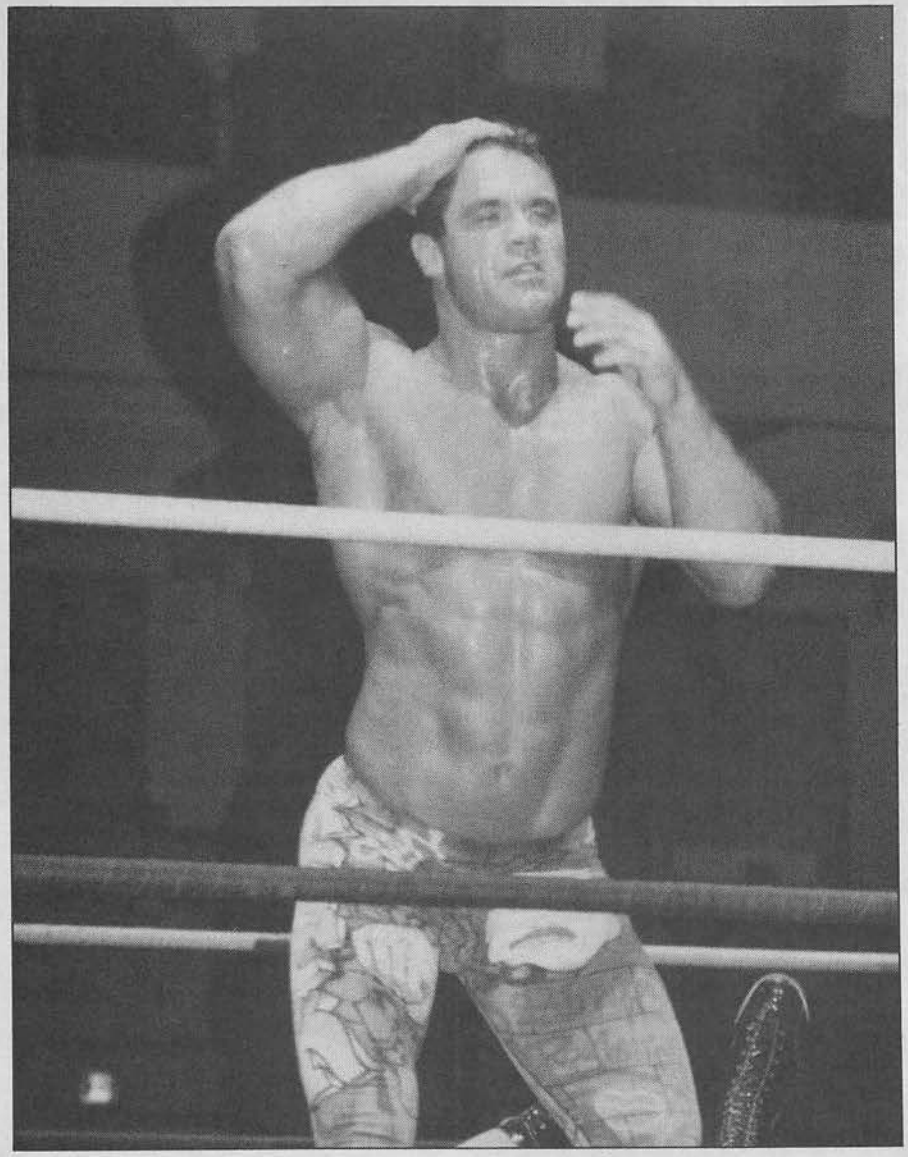
Unfortunately that's not likely to happen so she will have to be content with the role of manager/valet. On the plus side, Madusa has yet to be reduced to mere window dressing (although purists might argue that point). So with her inside knowledge and considerable skills as both a topflight wrestler and kickboxer, the managerial post may not be all that bad.

If Rude did choose to make that monumental leap from the top rope from hated heel to beloved hero, he certainly wouldn't be lacking for good competition from a legion of villains, many of whom would be ex-pals looking to even the score. In fact, WCW probably now has an overload of types like Big Van Vader, Cactus Jack, Arn Anderson and Jake "the Snake" Roberts (a contender whose future in the affiliation remains in serious doubt).

When Rude was a villain back in the WWF he taunted his foes with his suggestive outfits, prematch posturing for the women in the arenas and downright arrogance. Then, he staged some magnificent battles that made him a top draw. Recalling his infamous bouts with then good guy Jake Roberts, just imagine how interesting a similar WCW match with the roles reversed would be. Rude as hero and The Snake as his slithering adversary.

Unlike the WWF, WCW brass apparently sees no problem in friend confronting friend in singles competition. So, even with his new stature, Rude could resume his struggles with opponents like Ron Simmons, Sting, Ricky Steamboat or even Dustin Rhodes. Sounds inviting, doesn't it?!

While it may only be conjecture, one has to wonder if such a move would help to shore up the tumul-



Rick Rude could easily become a beloved hero.

tuous title situation that has developed since the departure of long time champ Flair. Since the Nature Boy's dash for WWF stardom in June of 1991, the heavyweight crown has been changed hands too many times to count. While it's true Flair won and regained the title for a record seven times, he was always there in the thick of the battle.

These days it's a lot less settled. Lex Luger got the better of the popular Sting the first time around and then Sting turned the tables only seven months later. The new champ clung to the crown and beat Rude and a few others in the process. But his grasp on the title was perilous at best as the 450 pound Big Van Vader thundered his way to the top. Only weeks later Ron Simmons, a last minute choice to challenge the big man, surprised everyone with a win.

If Rude decided to go the tag team route, he'd have no shortage of willing partners. Even some of those who have wrestled the Ravishing One in the past would have no problem teaming up with him if he mended some of his more blatant rulebreaking ways.

Consider Ron Simmons as a potential partner. At 6 foot two and 260 pounds, he would compliment Rude's patented Rude Awakening with his strength and three-point stance into a shoulder tackle manoeuver. The former all-American pro football star also has a few tricks up his sleeve. While he may be a favorite now, he gained considerable notoriety when he teamed with Butch Reed and the two wrestled quite successfully as Doom.

Sting would also provide Rude with a quality teaming venture. Still extremely popular with the young crowd, he would counterbalance Rude's flamboyant nature with his easy- going, down to earth approach. Chalk up a few victories and a championship up for that potential duo.

The list seems almost endless. Dustin Rhodes would add strength and youth to a coupling with Rude; Barry Windham offers experience and size and Ricky Steamboat is a natural choice, despite past and present hostilities. Still, this theory could break apart, even if it became reality for a short while. Rude would have to be willing to share top billing with another wrestler and he would have to be able to accept the reasonably foreign role of hero.

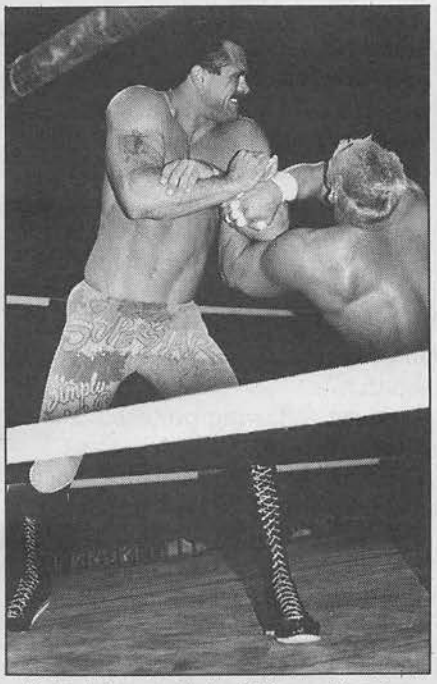
Madusa would have to be a key figure in any re-packaging of Rick Rude. All the necessary skills and ring prowess are already there. They just need to be shaped into a form that would be accessible both to the grappler and the audience. Madusa has the ring savvy to help nurture such a change and unlike so many managers of today, she is also a big attraction in the wrestling game.

Neither Rude nor Madusa would have to seek out an audience. It's ready made and sitting there waiting. The question is whether Rude could maintain the new image, along with the attention of the crowd.

If there was ever a doubt that such a 180 degree turnaround could be achieved, just consider the strange tale of one Mean Mark Callous (a.k.a. Mark Calloway...the Undertaker). In WCW he kept a high profile as a rule breaker for a good stretch, then with his creepily clever manager/advisor Paul Bearer (Pringle) he lurched into the WWF as a man who would rather bury his opponent six feet under than leave him merely defeated on the mat.

The body bag, coffin and urn became instantly recognizable sym-

bols of evil in the Federation. Month after month, he terrorized the likes of the Ultimate Warrior into a convenient semi-retirement and even took Hulk Hogan's crown for a fleeting moment. Being a villain was good business for the Undertaker until a confrontation with Jake "the Snake" Roberts turned him into the most oddly cast hero in professional wrestling today.



Rude takes control of Sting with a top wrist lock.

The body bag still remained. Threats of burying his opponents six feet underground were still the order of the day and Paul Bearer continued to wheel out coffins and brandish his trademark urn to terrorize every wrestler who dared challenged the "man from the dark side." All the villainous traits were intact. What accounted for the promotional change and new audience perception was the Undertaker's defense of Randy Savage's then wife/manager Miss Elizabeth from the attacks of a hidden Roberts. Presto...from villain to hero in a twinkling of an eye.

Rude should take note of that change because it required no change of style nor a transformation from scoundrel to a law-abiding goody goody. No one could ever accuse the Big Boss Man of being a wimp and the crowds still love him. And he's not that different from the days when he teamed with Akeem under the tutelage of Slick.

The career of Ravishing Rick Rude bears watching. A great wrestler with a wealth of mat knowledge, he and Madusa could go far in either the most hated or most loved grapplers categories. And who knows, maybe a leopard can change its spots after all. □

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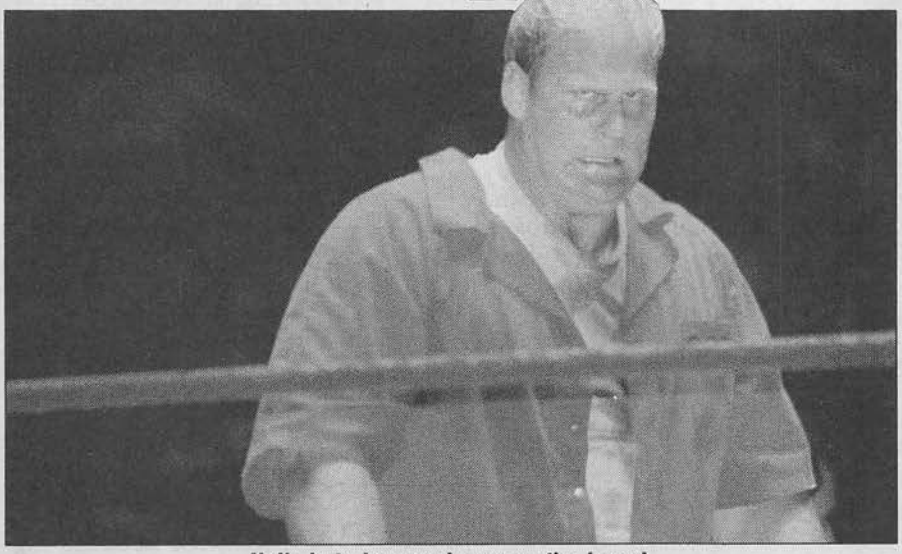
A WORD TO

Dump NAILZ

BY GIL EDWARDS



Nailz is truly a mad man on the loose!

Nailz may become the first non-wrestler to take possession of the World Wrestling Federation Heavyweight championship title. Don't laugh, it just may happen. Most veteran journalists and fans alike agree if such an injustice does in fact occur, then the doors at the promotion's headquarters in Stamford, Connecticut will close for good. A bounty on Nailz must be issued in order to save the Federation and preserve the sport's integrity.

With all signs pointing to WWF President Jack Tunney having no choice but to grant the ex-Cobb County, Georgia inmate an opportunity to challenge Bret "The Hitman" Hart, it's now time to fight fire with fire. Hold on, don't start lecturing that two wrongs don't make a right. You must keep in mind that fists and pain are the only language Nailz understands. Quite simply the man is a savage who will stop at nothing to hurt his opponents.

The wrestling public needs to scrutinize the action, or lack thereof being taken by the WWF's top brass. Why does President Tunney continue to tolerate Nailz's blatant total disregard of the rules match after match? At the very least by putting up with his shenanigans, a negative public image is being fostered.

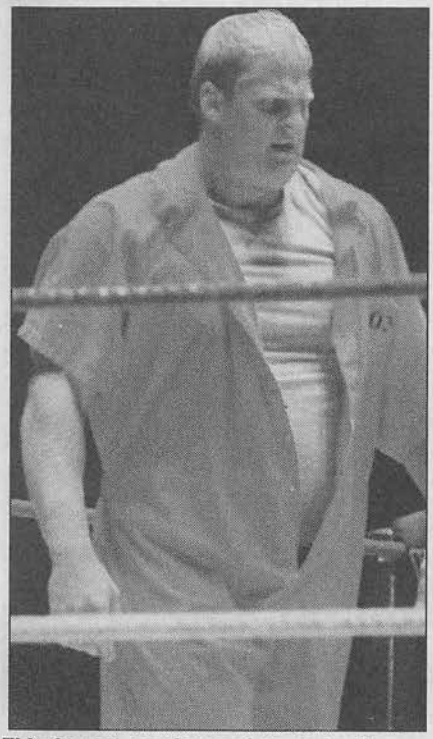
What, Tunney doesn't have the guts to stand up to the 6'5" 260 pound wild man? Come on, who's actually running the organization these days? The longer Nailz is permitted to scavenge the squared circle for potential victims, the less fans are apt to believe that the WWF is truly trying to promote family entertainment. It seems like barbarism is more like it. Since the front-office personnel doesn't show any concrete signs of bringing this volatile issue to a head any time soon, it's up to the wrestling rank and file to bring about a reasonable solution.

Forget following protocol. The faithful fans of the Federation would shake their heads in understanding if Tunney and his staff admitted that they made a poor decision by granting Nailz a wrestling license. However, instead of owing up to their actions, the top brass is taking a "let's bury our heads in the sand and act as if no problem exists" attitude. This is shameful considering how they as well as the fans have witnessed how cruel Nailz is once he steps through the ring ropes. Who in their right mind will actually believe his horror tales that he was physically abused by The Big Bossman and his nightstick while incarcerated? He probably dished out a whole lot more punishment than he took.

What will it take for Nailz to finally get booted out of the WWF? If no action is taken shortly, Nailz will have a clear path ahead of him on the way to a title showdown. What if by some extreme chance, he were to win the world's most coveted wrestling trophy, how could children look up to him as a role model?

The only explanation most mat insiders agree on as to Nailz being allowed to campaign in the WWF is that Tunney fears a lengthy and

THE WISE: Immediately!



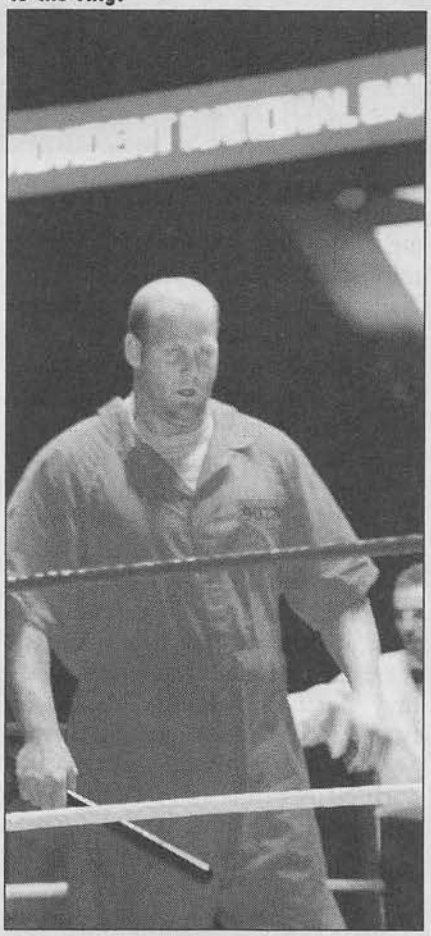
This former convict used to go by the name of Kevin Kelly.

costly court battle with the ex-con, should legal action be taken in attempts to void his contract. So in avoiding the clouds of controversy hovering above them, the WWF wrestlers themselves will have to clean up the mess inflicted by Nailz.

The Federation can't ethically much less legally lay out a bounty on any man. However, there's no known by-laws in the promotion's charter calling for bonuses to be offered on any given night of matches with no explanation given. Granted, this is a highly unusual move to suggest. Still, never in the promotion's history has there been another so bloodthirsty and brutal as Nailz. Pampero Firpo and George "The Animal" Steele, while both brutal competitors were never as wild as the certifiable Nailz.

The longer no action is taken, the more potential damage the Federation can expect. Bounties in the pro ranks have become a popular and at times highly effective vehicle that wrestlers use while policing their own turfs. "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert toned down his crazy ways in the Global Wrestling Federation in 1991 after constantly being hunted by fellow pros looking to cash in on the rewards being offered by an anonymous donor. Brian "Prime Time" Lee of Smoky Mountain Wrestling has found himself the target of a bounty, which in late 1992 was revealed to have been masterminded by Kevin Sullivan. This managed to take some of the wind out of this young upstart's sails.

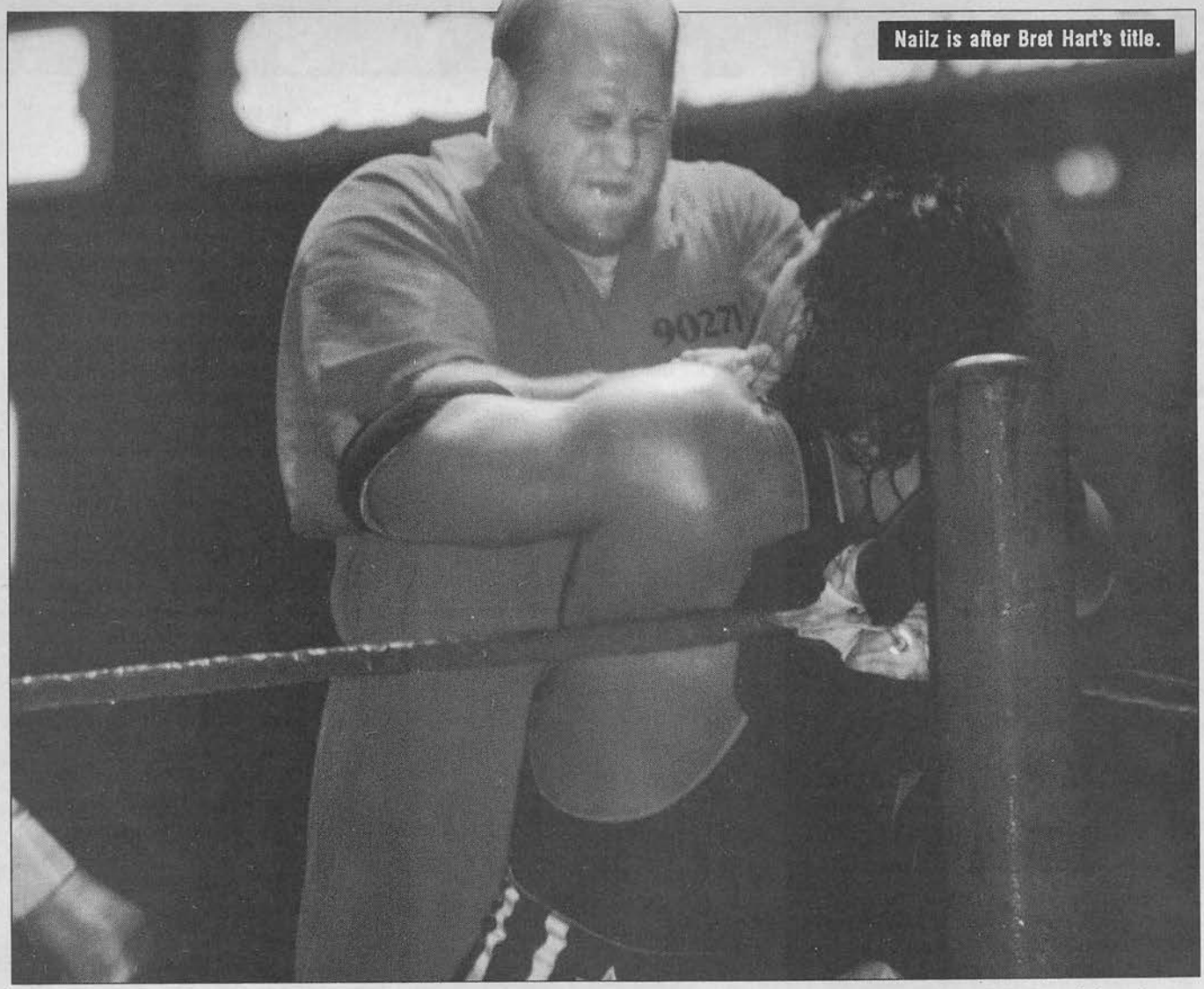
Nailz always brings his trusty nightstick to the ring.



Feel no pity for Nailz. He's not an innocent man. Think of those who he's forced to compromise their honorable intentions by not listening to the referee's instructions as intently as they once did and you can't blame them. Most wrestlers in the Federation believe that in order to catch a rat, they too must act as untamed as their target. And where there's a dollar to be made, make no mistake about it, there's a bunch of aggressive, well trained athletes just waiting for instructions as to where the line forms.

The Big Bossman has been working up a sweat just contemplating being in the number one position once the bounty on Nailz unofficially kicks in. WWF Heavyweight Champion Bret Hart has already sent signals to his peers that he knows what's going on and wants to keep the Bossman in line. After all, as the top singles competitor in the promotion, all eyes are upon him to patrol and control his domain.

"Macho Man" Randy Savage is another wrestler who is willing to say or do whatever it takes to get back in the title picture. Neutralizing Nailz would surely put him on a plum position. Tag teams as well as singles competitors have expressed sincere interest in making the WWF's meanest menace their top game to hunt. For example, The Beverly Brothers, Beau and Blake have all the motivation they need to give Nailz a double dose



Nailz is after Bret Hart's title.

of the bad medicine he's known to prescribe to others.

While "The Genius" Lanny Poffo, Beau and Blake's manager came to the ring in preparing to deliver one of his witty poems, Nailz showed his appreciation by repeatedly banging his wooden nightstick down across the cornerman's left forearm. Why such a violent outburst over a collaboration of words? Well folks, there was more to this incident than meets the eye.

Apparently, in attempts to warn Nailz of the impending danger he would be facing with the likes of a possible bounty hanging over his head, Poffo suggested he seek advice on learning actual, yet not too complicated wrestling holds. A hint was offered that should Nailz wish to join ranks with the Beverly Boys he would be welcome to do so. Instead of digesting the words of wisdom offered, the brutal ex-con took them as an insult and retaliated in a most uncaring fashion minutes later in the ring. You see, Nailz does not know how to compromise—case closed!

Wait, just wait until superstars like "Nature Boy" Ric Flair, Kamala, and Razor Ramon clear booking dates in their schedules and come gunning for him. Then the fur's really going to start flying around. They are each strong willed and unpredictably brutal in their own ways and Nailz would certainly have a battle on his hands. These three men have demonstrated that they understand the fine line between aggressiveness and barbarism.

One, last legitimate answer to curb Nailz of his rioting ways may very well lay in the hands of The Undertaker. Remember folks, it was this man who ran Jake "The Snake" Roberts clear out of the WWF in April 1992 and he also won the Federation's heavyweight crown from Hulk Hogan on November 27, 1991.

The Undertaker has all the intangible qualities and physical attributes to yank the nightstick out of Nailz's grip and crack it in two over his head. Such a painful point made would surely make Nailz rethink his priorities. If not, let the bounty begin.

Unfortunately, WWF winning purses are on the decline, television ratings are plunging and there dwindling attendance figures in arenas. Many attribute this downwards slide to the behavioral patterns of one spitting, rotten, unshaven hoodlum called Nailz. If this is indeed the case, can you honestly blame those who resort to whatever tactics are called for to remedy the situation? After all, their futures are at stake as well. □

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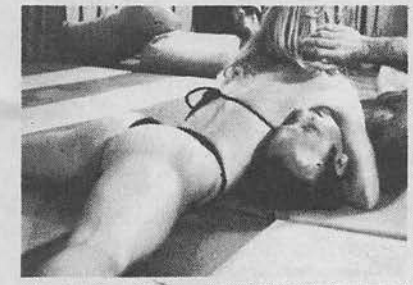

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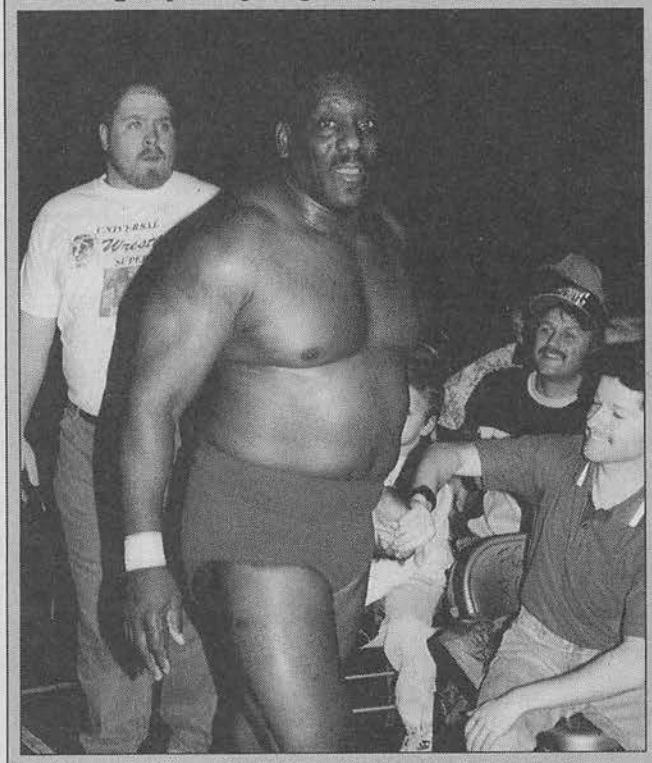
S.D. JONES:

A Man and His

BY GIL EDWARDS
PHOTOS BY EDDIE HASKELL

Special Delivery Jones is still around the wrestling game, and he's not planning to retire just yet. Why would he want to do something foolish like that? Sure S.D. has a few years, okay, in most cases many years of experience over the current group competing today, but does that mean he has any less to offer one of the major promotions? It's time for the World Wrestling Federation and World Championship Wrestling to prove that they are not spineless and grant Jones a try-out. He promises more than a few surprises.



Wherever "Special Delivery" goes, the fans are always behind him!

Bob Backlund at age 43 has proven with his comeback, that young and muscular doesn't automatically equate success. Jones has been around wrestling long enough (now cruising into his twentieth year) to know he has an uphill battle at best in order to be taken seriously by the two major leagues in America but he knows he can prove himself if he's just given the chance. He is affectionately addressed by the current crop of competitors in locker rooms as "Gramps", but no one that has teamed with S.D. consistently has watched him dominate opponents half his age will give him anything but respect while he's in the ring.

Oh, you'd better believe the man's dead serious about getting an opportunity to prove to various matchmakers just how wrong they were to allow him to fall between the cracks in past years. How can you not admire S.D.'s determination to once again take on the "big boys" of the WWF and/or introduce himself to the prize studs of WCW?

S.D, is not asking for a handout, and he keeps himself in top shape by competing regularly on the East Coast for several of the more competitive independent promotions. Universal Wrestling Superstars promoter Tommy Dee is among the growing number of supporters who after booking him on his cards staunchly believes if S.D. doesn't get a much deserved invitation by the WWF or WCW, they would be cheating themselves and the fans of guaranteed bell to bell excitement.

With all respect intended, there's no way Jones belongs on the independent trail anymore. After all, he has nothing to prove to anyone anymore. Please understand he has never retired nor is he "coming back" from an injury. S.D. used to be a WWF regular back in the early and mid 70's and then his career was put on hold. Need a simpler explanation? Fine. The man was laid off. Dejected, of course, wouldn't you be? Still, S.D. remains hopeful of a return performance. Close friends and tag partners like Victor Rivera, Manuel Soto and Pete Sanchez have long been removed from the game and the public eye but Jones hopes to keep his name alive.

Jones is used to having his hand raised in victory.

S.D. Jones and The Cheetah Kid competed together in Europe.

S.D. has never won a championship. On our honor, record books were combed through and our findings are conclusive. Incredible, isn't it? Twenty years in between the ring ropes and no strap to put in his trophy case.

Don't misinterpret this as being anything but a successful career for Jones. He's worked steadily, won his share of matches and financially continues to earn a comfortable living. And the notoriety, ah now you're talking perks. In his adopted home of New York City, S.D. has no problem getting the best seat and first class treatment in any restaurant of his choice. He's a survivor. Wrestling fans respect his determination to be the best heavyweight, regardless of what hall or arena Jones performs in.

S.D. claims he is at home in any arena he wrestles in and repays the kindness of the hometown fans by giving it his all. He is truly a consummate performer.

The last thing S.D. wants when he finally does hang up his boots for good is to have his all-star career remain in limbo, hearing numerous "what ifs", "could haves" or "maybe ifs" in describing his competitiveness. He's a true pro who remains loyal to his employers and who enjoys basing in just one area. Jones likes the Northeast and you'll never see his name on any cards booked in Tennessee, Texas or the Mid-South. S.D. has only appeared a few times in Los Angeles in 1974 and then put in a few weeks duty with the Crockett organization in the Mid-South. Otherwise, he's been quite content to stay close to home and wrestle in the Boston Garden, Philadelphia's Spectrum and New York's Madison Square Garden.

Although there's no changing past injustices, S.D. continues on with a cautious yet highly optimistic future. Still, he's not ignoring the obvious. One, maybe two years top are what Jones has left while at the top of his game. By demonstrating his loyalty to the Federation throughout his career, McMahon, turn his back and should allow S.D. to challenge for the heavyweight championship. It's this driving force that keeps this grappling veteran in tip top shape. He wants to be ready for that ever important call.

Think a minute, Bob Backlund

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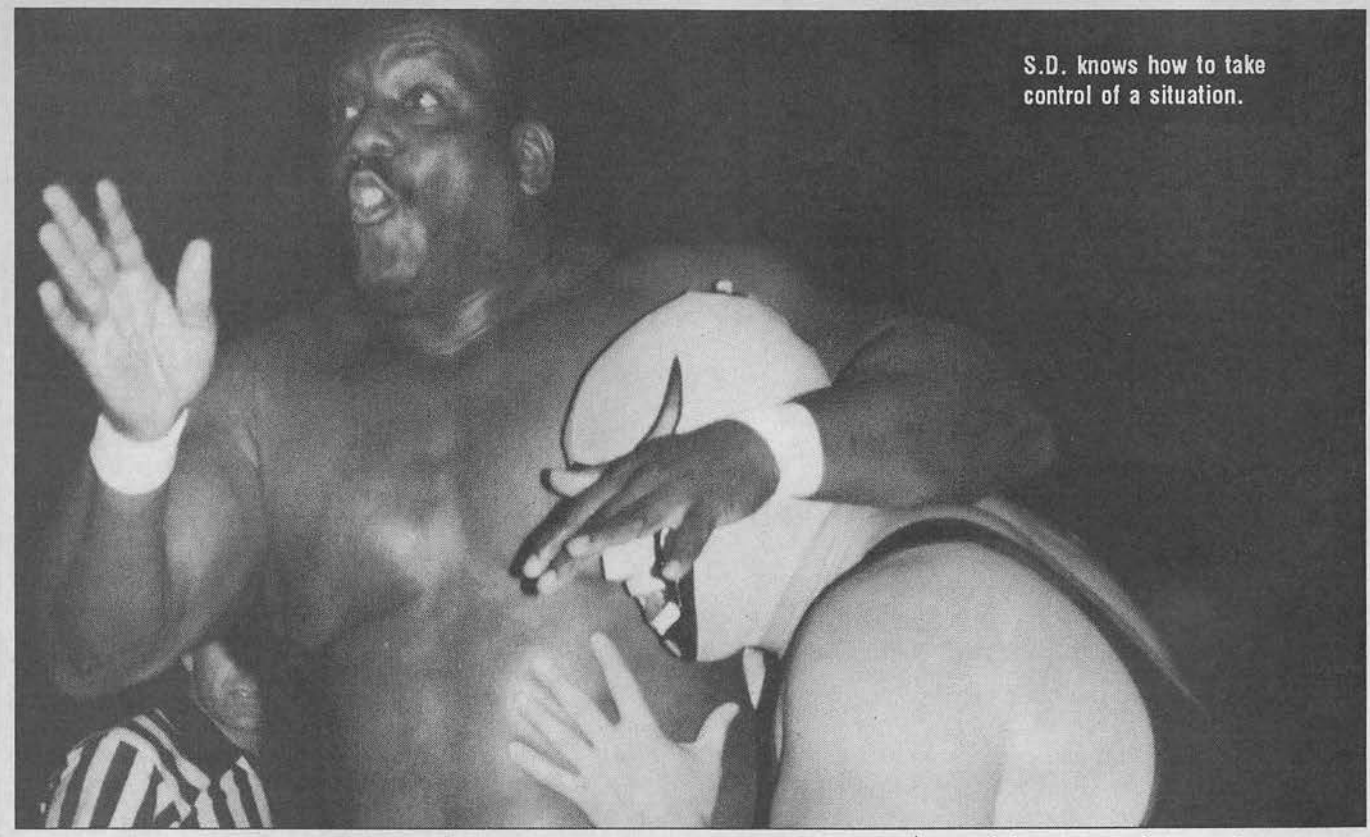


S.D. knows how to take control of a situation.

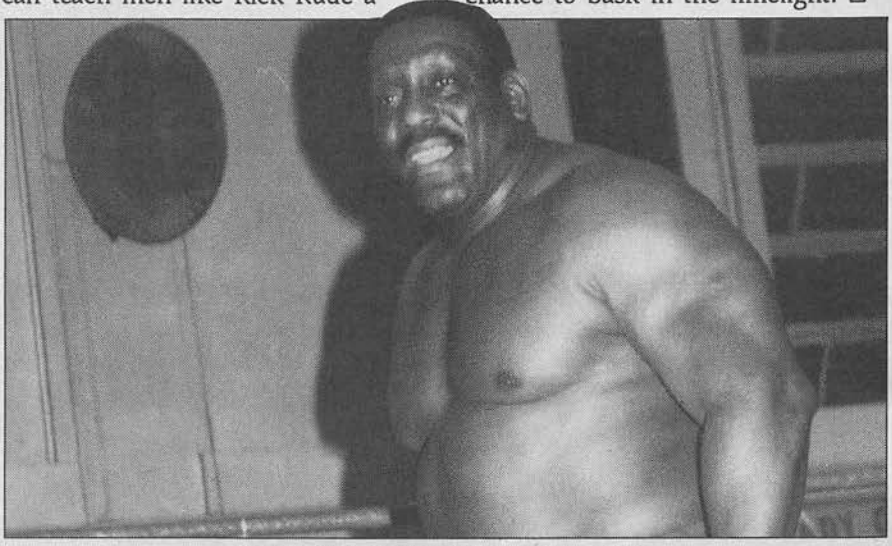
has returned, so have The Wild Samoans (now billed as The Headshrinkers), and others are negotiating to rejoin as we go to press. It's time for S.D. to be offered a parting shot at glory as well, and if granted a farewell tour, S.D. promises a memorable exit, filled with excitement and finesse.

Technically, Jones knows as many moves in the ring as Bret Hart does plus he throws a mean dropkick and connects with an awesome headbutt taught to him by the legendary Bobo Brazil. S.D.'s advantage over many of the WWF main attractions today was having the opportunity to wrestle, train and question some of the sport's greatest players like Bruno Sammartino, Ernie Ladd, Pedro Morales, and Killer Kowalski.

Jones is clearly in a sink or swim situation. With his tremendous ring knowledge he would become either a phenomenal success "overnight", which took two decades in the making or he'll come to the disturbing conclusion that it's time to think of a career change. But if all doors to WWF opportunities remain shut, there's no reason why WCW Vice-President Cowboy Bill Watts shouldn't hire Jones. Money promises not to be an issue with S.D. He just wants one more shot at winning a major title. Jones could certainly make in splash in WCW. For instance, he could team with young Erik Watts and teach him a thing or two or he could challenge former teammate Tony Atlas. The fans would be sure to see some exciting matches then.

Jones is ready, willing and able to take on the best and the brightest of WCW. S.D. is aching for the volunteer roll call to begin so he can teach men like Rick Rude a good lesson. He hopes it's just a matter of time before he is summoned to perform with his usual pride and expertise.

Come on, Vince McMahon, Jr. and Cowboy Bill Watts, what do you have to lose? Give S.D. Jones one last chance to garner a championship belt. The man comes highly recommended by such greats like Andre the Giant, Dino Bravo, Dominic DeNucci, and "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka. You could certainly do much worse than give this highly acclaimed athlete a last chance to bask in the limelight. □



Jones always has a smile for the crowd.

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Your host, Editor in Chief of "Wrestling Eye Magazine" Hubie Marx

AN INSIDER'S VIEW OF THE WWF-USWA Merge

BY STEVE MUELLER

On August 9, 1992, the wrestling world changed. It changed not with a bang, but with a challenge. It changed in a manner that may, one day, restructure the entire way professional wrestling is promoted in America. In some ways, the change was as significant as the national Football League agreeing to face the American Football League in a Super Bowl.

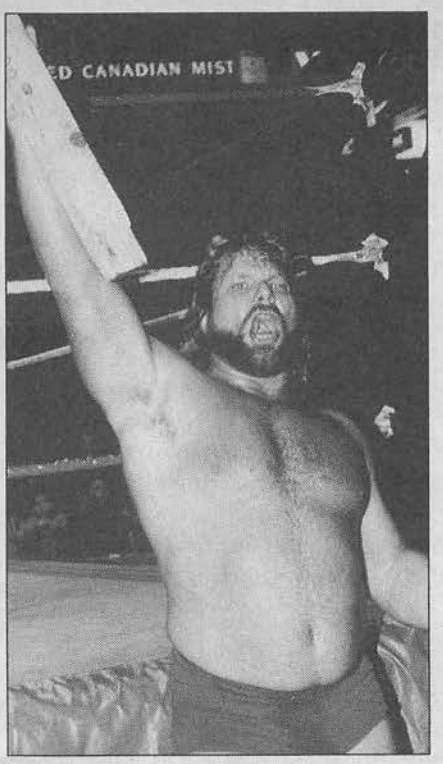
On that date, the World Wrestling Federation officially recognized the existence of a wrestling promotion other than itself. Oh, during the past couple of years, there had been some cracks in the WWF's rigid policy of not recognizing the existence of other pro wrestling organizations. For example, Ric Flair came into the promotion with the NWA world title belt in tow and calling himself the "real World Champion." But the official beginning of the new WWF philosophy did indeed begin on August 9.

That date saw Jeff Jarret, son of USWA promoter Jerry Jarret and one of that promotion's top attractions, leap a barricade at a WWF event to challenge then WWF Intercontinental Champion Bret Hart to a title match. Hart accepted the challenge and a new era dawned.

Alegedly because Hart would lose the Intercontinental strap to the British Bulldog at SummerSlam '92, the match never took place. But that fact is inconsequential because the WWF and USWA entered into an historic "working agreement." For the first time since the Vince McMahon, Jr., era began in 1984, the WWF promoted cards on which non-WWF wrestlers appeared. Additionally, some WWF wrestlers and personalities began appearing on USWA cards.

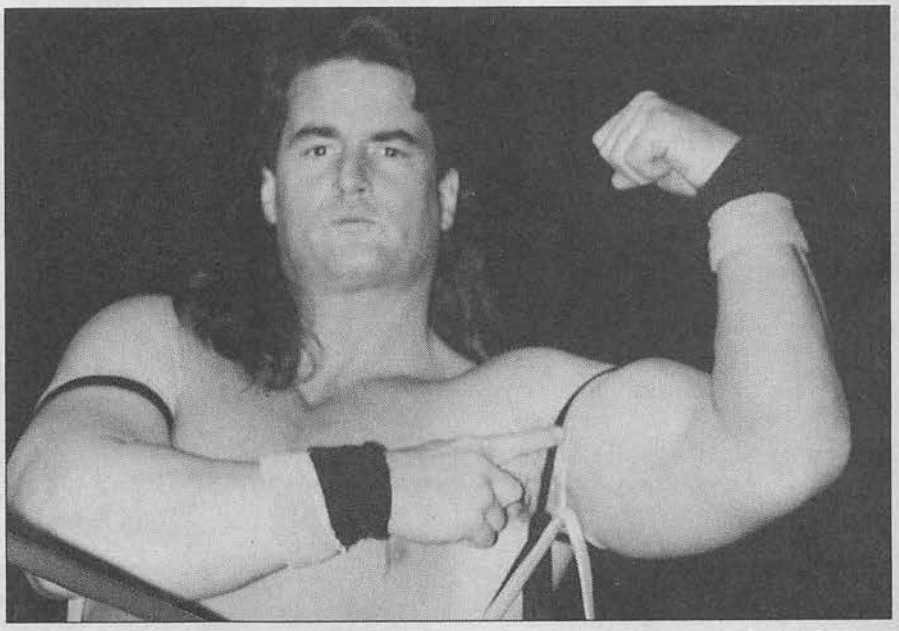
What does this all mean? How will it effect the future of wrestling in America? Is this a trend, the start of things to come, or just an aberration. Good questions that need answers. WRESTLING EYE will try to supply them.

What follows is an attempt by the crack WRESTLING EYE editorial staff to analyze these dramatic events. The entire development will be broken down into its component parts. Opinions of experts will be reviewed. Logical conclusions and suppositions will be formulated.



Hacksaw Jim Duggan was one of the WWF wrestlers chosen to compete in the USWA.

Many feel that the Rock 'n Roll Express would be an excellent addition to the WWF. —Photo by Cohen



Jeff Gaylord could be a competent replacement for the Ultimate Warrior. —Photo by Wilson

THE PLAYERS

VINCE McMAHON

World Wrestling Federation head honcho, alleged marketing genius, and supreme commander of the universe, at least the WWF slice of it, Vince McMahon is the prime mover in this story. Vince was the first promoter to successfully take a wrestling promotion national, and, love him or hate him, he remains the world champion of wrestling promoters with no serious challengers for his crown in sight.

McMahon has been called by some a serpentine, cut-throat businessman with an ego the size of Montana, by others a genius with his own code of honor and a great love for the wrestling business. Whatever the reality may be, he is one of the most influential and complex men ever to be involved with the mat sport.

JERRY JARRET

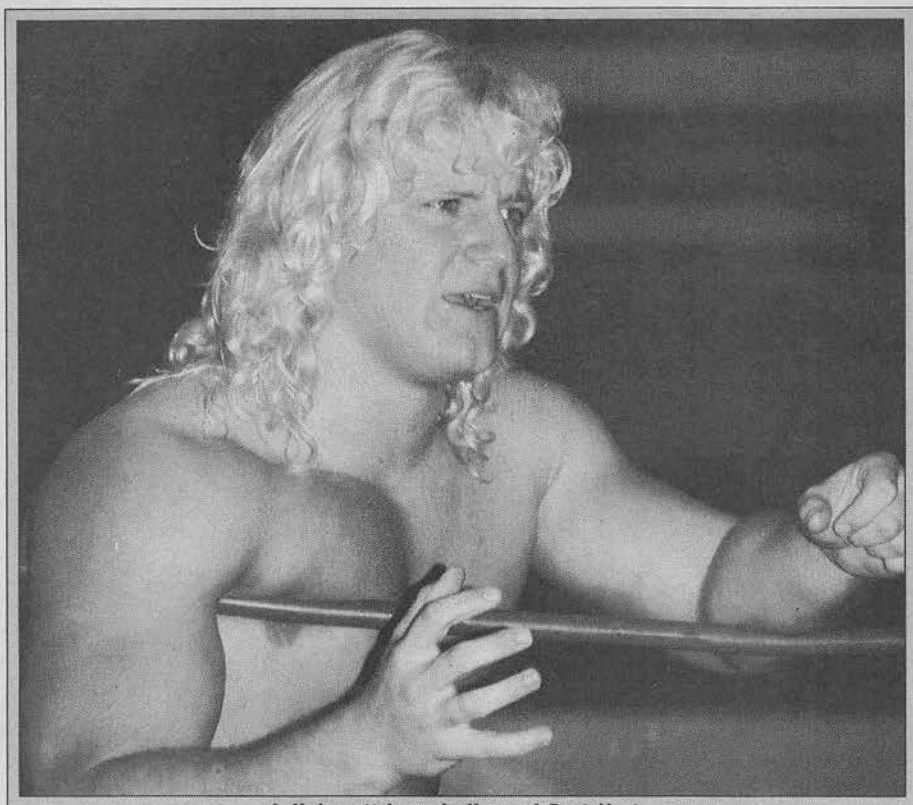
Owner/operator of the United States Wrestling Association, based in Tennessee. His longtime top attraction is Jerry "the King" Lawler, perhaps the greatest all-around star in the history of southern wrestling. (Lawler has a significant role in this growing saga. That role will be discussed later.)

According to Jim Cornette, wrestling greatest living manager, in an interview in the "Pro Wrestling Torch" newsletter, "Jerry Jarret is one the shrewdest businessman in wrestling. I have never known him to come up on the short end of a business deal."

Earlier this year, Jarret was trying to set-up a working relationship with World Championship Wrestling. That deal fell through. It appears this one will not.

OVERVIEW

The exact nature of this "working relationship" has yet to be revealed or determined. It seems to be a work in progress. Rumors have claimed everything from the



Jeff Jarrett has challenged Bret Hart.

USWA becoming a kind of minor league for the WWF to the whole deal being an elaborate scheme by Vince McMahon to take over Memphis wrestling. However, why Vince McMahon would want to do that is not clear at this time. Especially in view of the wrestling depression that is currently gripping America. One thing Vince does not need is more empty arenas.

This "working agreement" has advantages for both promotions. The USWA gets WWF stars to appear on its shows. The WWF saves travel money by using USWA wrestlers to fill up spots on cards run in the South. And then, on December 7, the WWF got a lot more. It got Jerry Lawler.

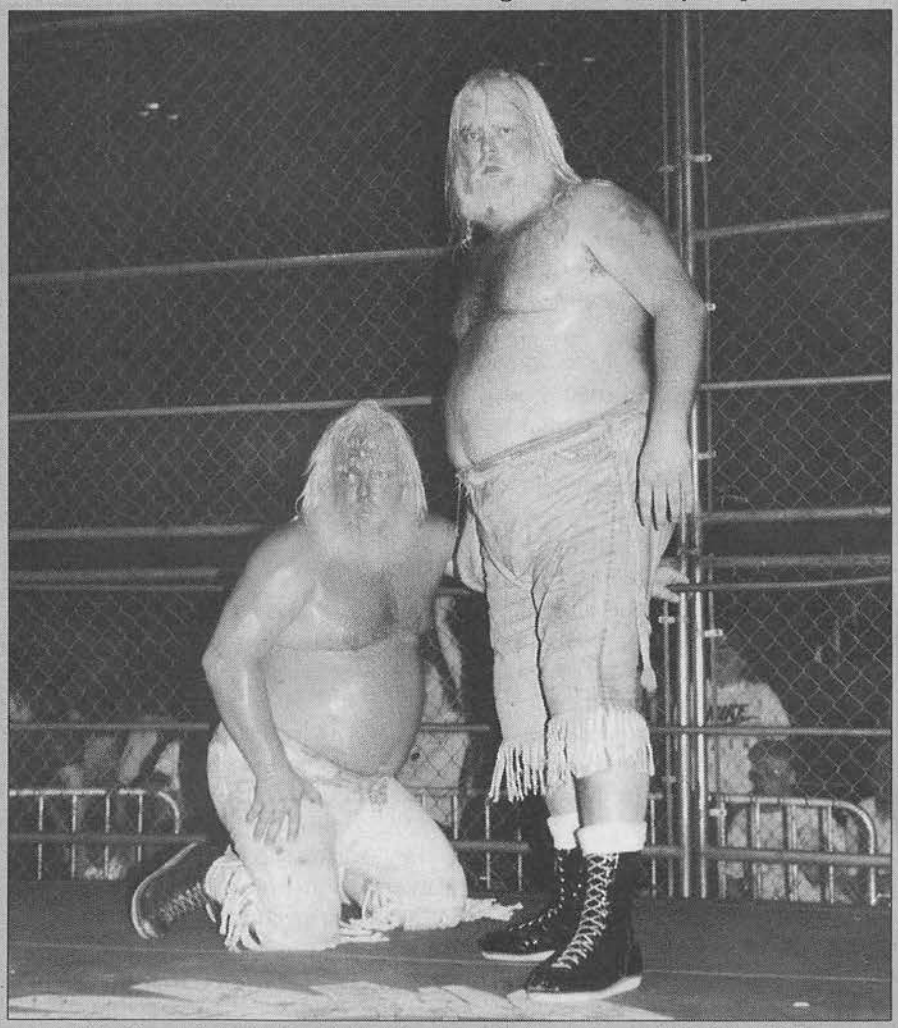
WRESTLERS AND PERSONALITIES

Jerry Lawler's move to the WWF is significant on many levels. Lawler, called the Hulk Hogan of the South, debuted on the December 7 edition of "Prime Time" on the USA network. Lawler is a great ring worker, but even more importantly, he is one of the best communicators in the history of the sport. His great all-around ability is reflected in his amazing accomplishments. Without working for a major promotion for any length of time, Lawler has over the last 15 years been one of the most influential men in the sport. He even parlayed a feud with late comic Andy Kaufman into appearances on the David Letterman Show and sold out houses in the Mid-South Coliseum.

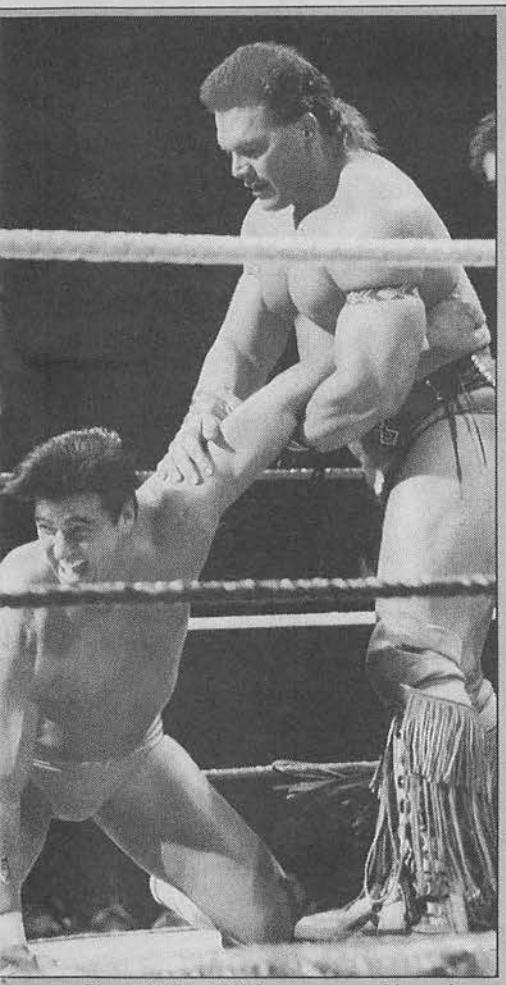
Jeff Jarret has also been wrestling successfully in opening matches on WWF cards not only in the south, but across America. Additionally, many WWF stars have appeared at USWA events including Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart, southern wrestling managerial legend, Sergeant Slaughter, Hacksaw Jim Duggan, and the Bushwackers.

WHAT LIES AHEAD?

Experts say the huge egos of McMahon and Jarret can't co- exist very long. Others say that the McMahon/Jarret alliance is the first stage of a new way to promote



Could you imagine the havoc the Moondogs would wreak in the WWF?



The WWF—USWA merge could produce some interesting match ups.

wrestling in America. These experts say that it is alliance born out of necessity. The WWF needs a developing ground for new talent and USWA needs nationally known personalities on its cards to foster credibility in the minds of casual fans. And more importantly, it needs these recognizeable stars to get those casual fans to buy tickets for USWA events.

The editorial staff at WRESTLING EYE,, after careful evaluation and extensive study, believe that this alliance is indeed the start of a new era in professional wrestling. As proof, we point to the recently announced alliance between World Championship Wrestling and Smokey Mountain Wrestling. We further believe that these alliances will help pro wrestling overcome its current popularity slump. New faces and developing talent are exactly what the majors need to rekindle interest in the sport. □

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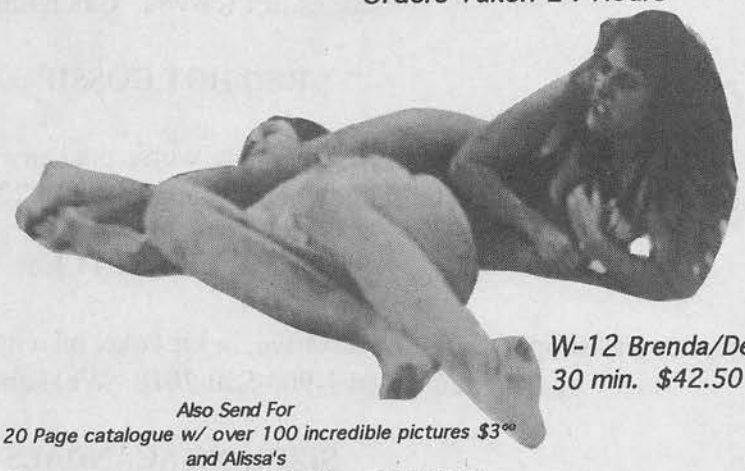

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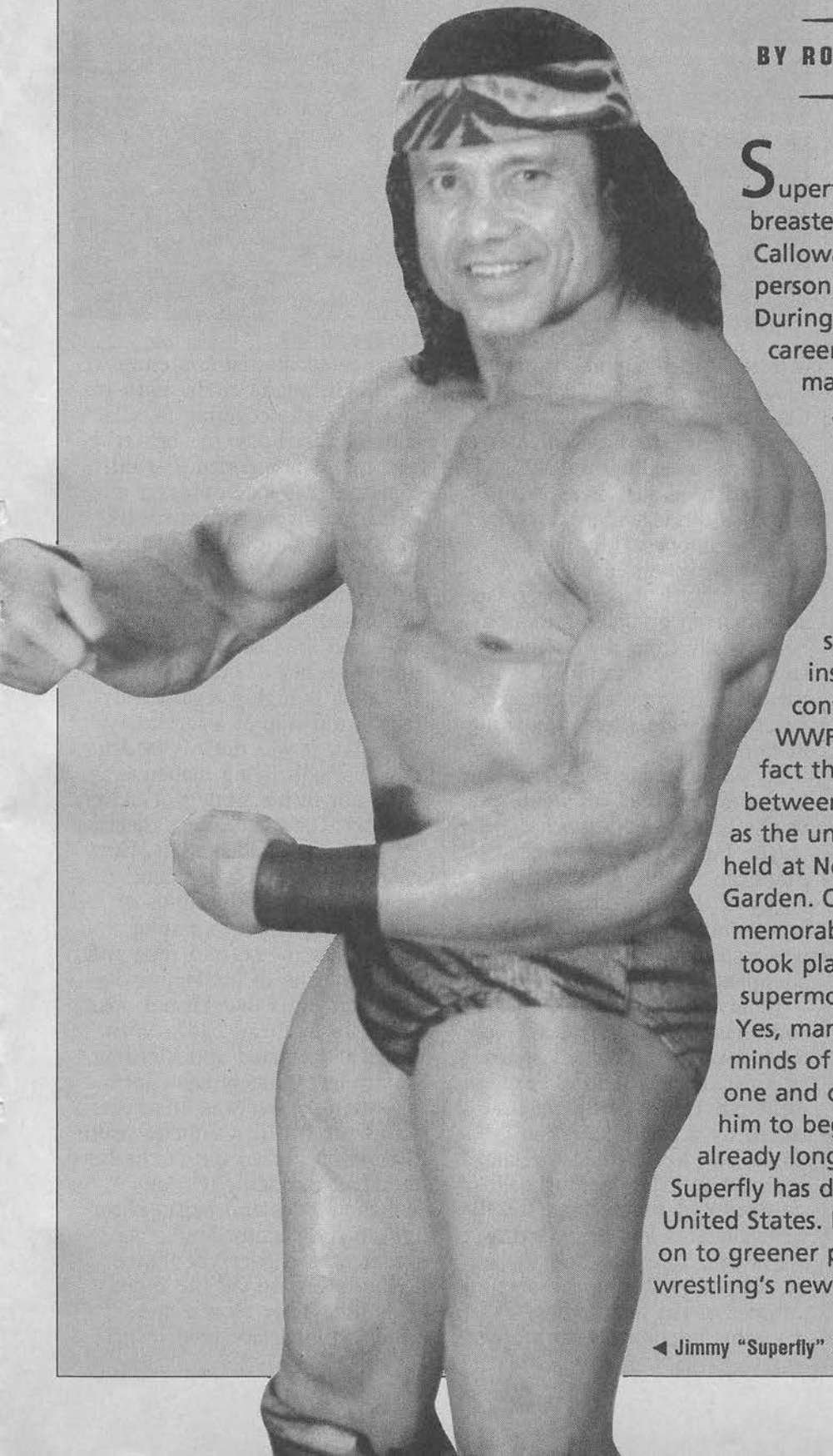
THE SUPERFLY LANDS IN EUROPE

BY ROBERT EDLHAUSER



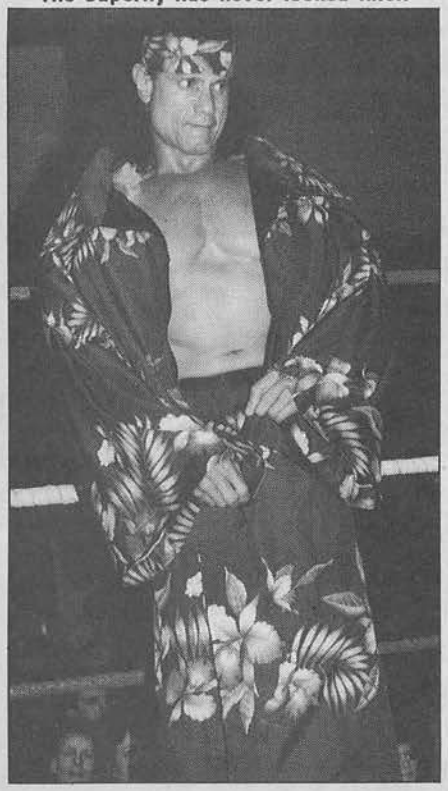
Superfly. Not a circa 1940 hip double breasted suit worn by singer Cab Calloway, but rather a name that personifies the word, WRESTLING. During Jimmy Snuka's illustrious career, the Superfly has experienced many ups and downs. In fact, according to wrestling historians more ups than downs. Snuka has held many regional titles in the United States. He has also had some of the most memorable brawls and feuds in the history of the sport. Some that come to mind instantly are the classic confrontations he had with former WWF champion, Bob Backlund. In fact the infamous cage match held between the two is heralded by many as the unparalleled greatest match ever held at New York's Madison Square Garden. Of course, there's also the memorable "coconut incident" that took place between Jimmy and WWF supermouth "Rowdy" Roddy Piper. Yes, many memories are etched in the minds of wrestling fans regarding the one and only Superfly. Now it's time for him to begin another chapter in his already long and illustrious career. The Superfly has decided he conquered the United States. It's now time for him to move on to greener pastures, namely Europe, wrestling's newest and meanest playground.

◀ Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka has never looked finer.

In October of 1992, Jimmy was contacted by Otto Wanz, European wrestling mogul and former AWA World's Heavyweight champion to wrestle for the Catch Wrestling Association, Europe's premier grappling group. This was to be the first time Jimmy has wrestled in a European ring. The Superfly of course, accepted the offer just like many other American greats have in the past. Following in the footsteps of competitors like Greg Valentine, Big Van Vader, Cowboy Bob Orton and Scott Hall (known today as Razor Ramon in WWF ring wars), Jimmy embarked on his trans Atlantic voyage to the "catch" wars of Europe, willing to leave his indelible mark there.

Upon arriving in Hannover, Germany after a tiring day of traveling from his home in Utah, Jimmy was welcomed with open arms by both the promoters of the CWA and the entire European wrestling community as well. The media came out in droves to meet Jimmy and welcome him to the unfamiliar but competitive world of European Catch wrestling. On this occasion Jimmy signed on the dotted line to meet British Commonwealth Champion, Tony St. Clair. St. Clair is no newcomer to the sport. In fact, he has well over a decade of wrestling under his belt and he is just as experienced as the legendary Superfly. St. Clair is one of the most popular wrestlers in the CWA. Since Jimmy had been tagged as an American grappler, although he's actually from the Pacific island of Fiji, he was billed as a rulebreaker as most Americans traditionally are when competing in Europe.

The Superfly has never looked finer.



Mad Bull Buster comes to Jimmy's aid.

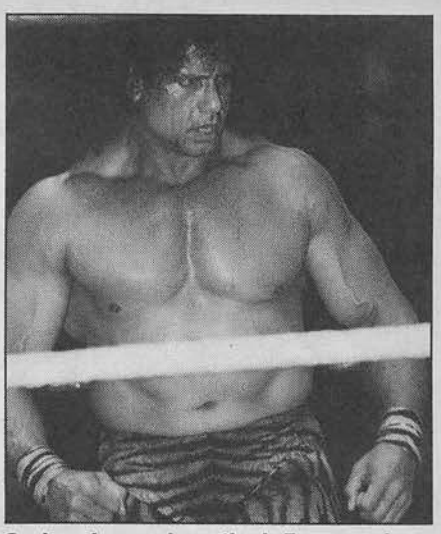
As Jimmy made is way to ring it was evident that he would not be the hated American challenger, but rather a beloved American wrestling hero. A minority of the fans did dislike Snuka, but without a doubt he was respected by every fan in attendance.

Jimmy was lead to the ring by cornerman, Mad Bull Buster better known in the United States as American Pit Bulldog Rex. Although The Superfly was escorted by a hated American Catch star, he still had the fans behind him. The opening bell sounded and Jimmy immediately went after his foe. Surprised by the attack, Tony St. Clair looked quite helpless during the opening minutes of the match. Snuka stung his opponent with a series of patented martial arts chops to the Englishman's chest. With blatant red welts covering St. Clair's entire upper body, the bell rang and round one ended. (In Europe matches are contested under a rounds system much like in boxing) Clearly, to use the cliche, St Clair was saved by the bell. Later in the match, Snuka continued his onslaught and punished St. Clair with a continuous series of head butts.

Snuka is highly regarded by fans worldwide as a legendary flyer, but it was not his evident that his high flying maneuvers were not in his strategy. Not yet, anyway. The match kept the fans on the edge of their seats. Next came the high risk moment when after fifteen minutes of pummeling St. Clair, Snuka climbed to the second rope and delivered one of his famous flying head butts that busted open the Brit's forehead badly. With St. Clair lacerated and bleeding, Jimmy immediately went for a pin attempt, but was unsuccessful as the British Commonwealth Champion kicked out at the last moment. Suddenly the fans switched sides and began cheering on the champ. Snuka attempted to deliver yet another flying head butt off the ropes. This time Tony moved and Snuka landed face first on mat

kissing the canvas. Now it was St. Clair's turn to teach the man from the Fiji a lesson in the European tradition. The Englishman delivered a flying dropkick, then a clothesline. Jimmy staggered to his feet. Then a double ax handle. But Jimmy kept going like a wrestling machine, Fijian made! A head butt to Snuka's forehead didn't even stun the Superfly. A high cross body and pin attempt was unsuccessful. Tony St. Clair pulled every move out of his vast ring repertoire to defeat Jimmy but was unsuccessful. After Tony played all his cards, Snuka began to use rule breaking tactics by illegally choking St. Clair. Although referee Mick McMichael warned Snuka about a possible disqualification and mandatory fine, the damage was already done. From there Jimmy climbed to the top rope to show why he's called the Superfly. All the fans, even the ones who cheered for St. Clair, rose from their seats to see Jimmy's infamous leap. This would be the leap that would send him into European wrestling infamy. Jimmy went for the pin. A three count later, the last curtain of the longest championship reign in Europe fell. Snuka's hand was raised in victory and he was declared the new British Commonwealth Champion. Promoter Peter Williams of the CWA presented the native from Fiji with the gold diamond encrusted belt. A new champion was born in Europe. In fact the first ever non-European wrestler to ever hold the British Commonwealth Title, was newly crowned.

Jimmy wears title proudly.



Snuka enjoys seeing action in European rings.

As the "Superfly" left the ring after his victory one thing was evident. The fans were gesturing with the Fiji symbol of "I Love You", and Jimmy graciously smiled knowing that this is just another chapter in the long novel of his career. □

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VIDEO VIEWS PRESENTS

The Strongest, Most Muscular, Best Skilled Women Wrestlers in Real Mixed Wrestling Action

In this magazine you probably see a dozen women's wrestling video ads — why should you buy from us. Because only Video Views can bring you the finest strength athletes in real mat wrestling and fighting action, time after time. Just look at the incredible women we have, ranging from world famous wrestlers such as Spice Williams and Tina Moretti, to powerhouse strength athletes such as Hannie, Raye Hollitt (*you've seen her fighting on TV!*) and many others, who can use brute strength to defeat their victims. We are the ONLY company specializing in MIXED matches, and why? Because we get the talent! Read on, and look at our photos to help you decide which videos you would like to own!

Spice Williams — Video 14

Spice shows off her incredible strength by lifting very heavy in the gym before taking on, and easily beating, her much larger male foe. You have seen Spice on TV also, now you can see her on this action-packed video. Video runs 1½ hours for $70.

Hannie and Two Others — Video 15

Hannie, one of the most beautiful and muscular women in the world had only a small amount of wrestling skill, but her strength is so immense that she easily defeated her male opponent, then squares off against another strong woman. Several other matches included. Video runs 1½ hours for $70.

Christina Dutkowski — Video 16
The Strongest Woman in the World

Christina can bench almost 400 pounds and can curl 200 pounds, so this, combined with her professional wrestling knowledge enables her to take on any male up to 250 pounds, so you can imagine what she does to the 160 pound male in this tape. Several other mixed matches included. Video runs 2 hours for $70.

Raye Hollitt — Video 18

Yes, you have been watching Raye fight off all competition on a national TV show recently. Here she toys with her male foe, winning fall after fall with her powerful body. One other match included. Video runs 45 minutes for $55.

Unbeatable Arm-Wrestler Cheryl — Video 20

For a change of pace, and to please the arm wrestling fanatics, here is a video which CLEARLY demonstrates just how invincible some women are in the womanly art of arm-wrestling. At a well proportioned 5'8", 180 pounds, with 16" biceps and 26" thighs, Cheryl not only dominates her male foe in arm-wrestling, but on the mat as well. One other arm-wrestling match/fight included. Video runs 2 hours for $70.

Arm-Wrestler/Wrestler Denise — Video 22

This video showcases the enormous physical talents of Denise, who partakes in defeating her larger male opponents in arm-wrestling and on the mat. In the mixed wrestling, the muscles in her body bulge out, especially in her back, strong thighs and muscular biceps, and she shows just clear as day, how superior a strong muscular woman is in combat with a larger male. Video runs 2 hours for $70.

Spotlight on Tina Moretti — Video 26

You may have seen her wrestle on TV, and surely have seen her in the magazines. Now you can own this nice video showcasing the strength and wrestling talents of Tina Moretti. Tina trains heavy in the gym, then takes on a top woman bodybuilder in girl vs. girl action. Video runs 2 hours for $70.

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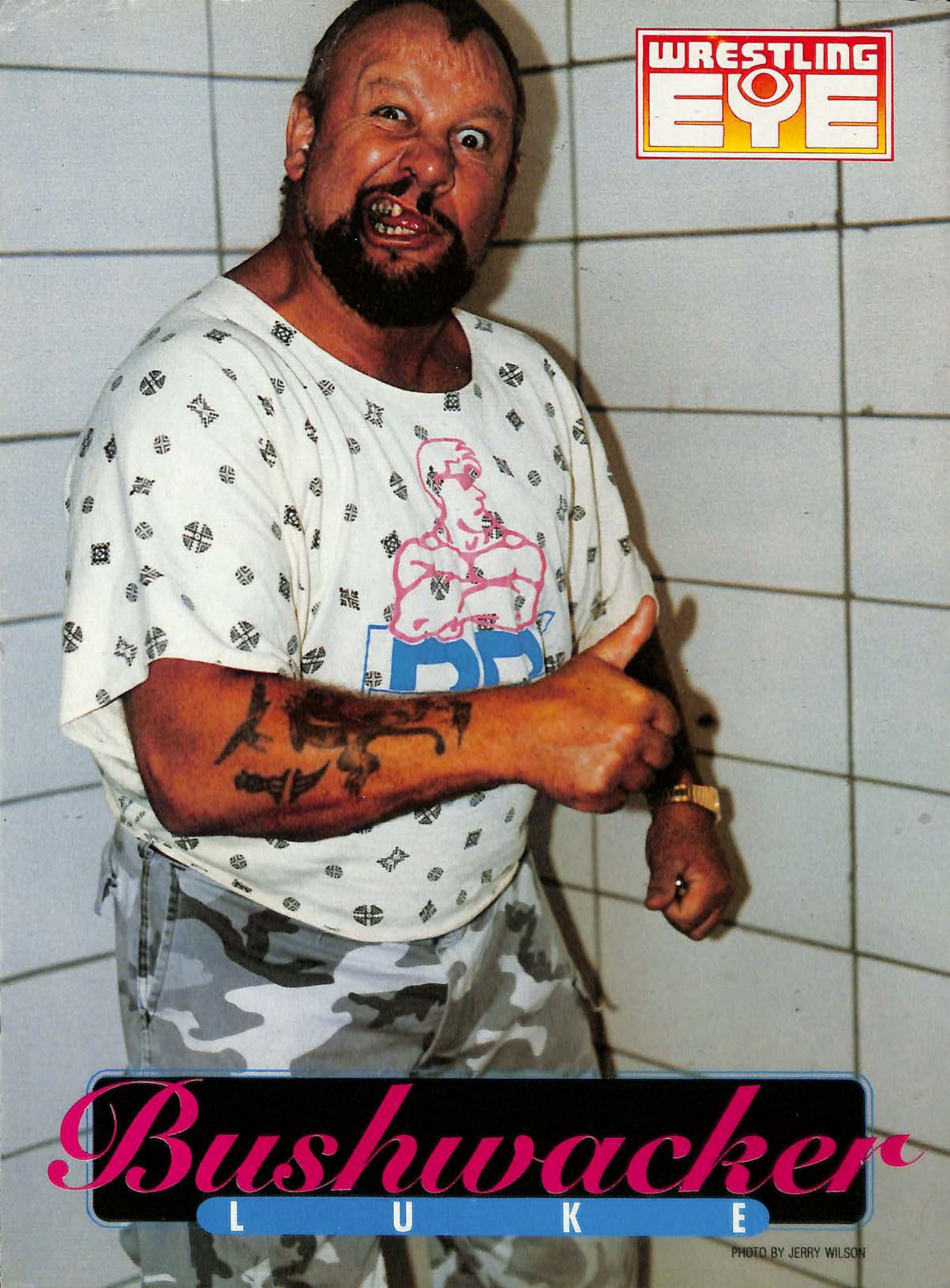
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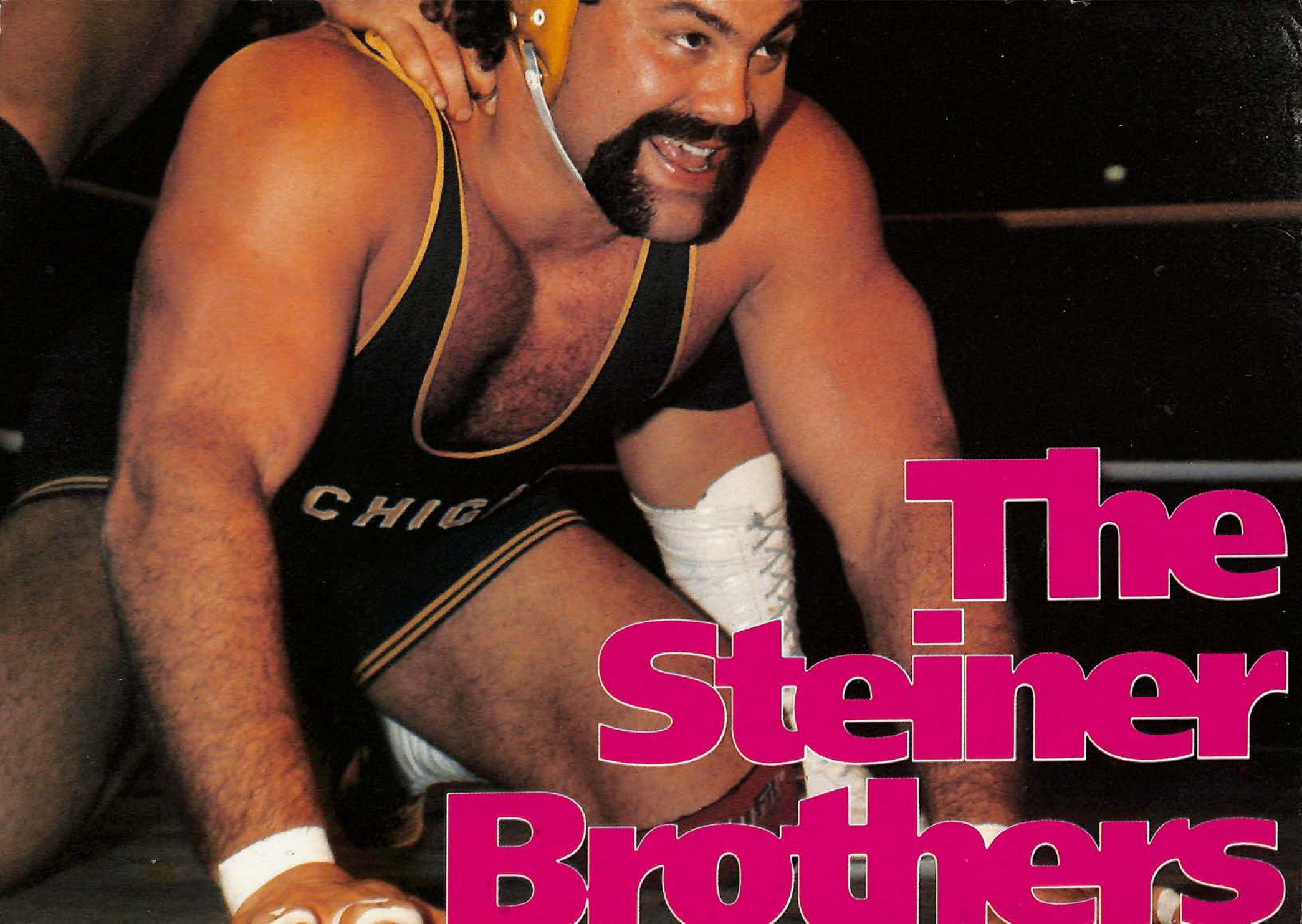

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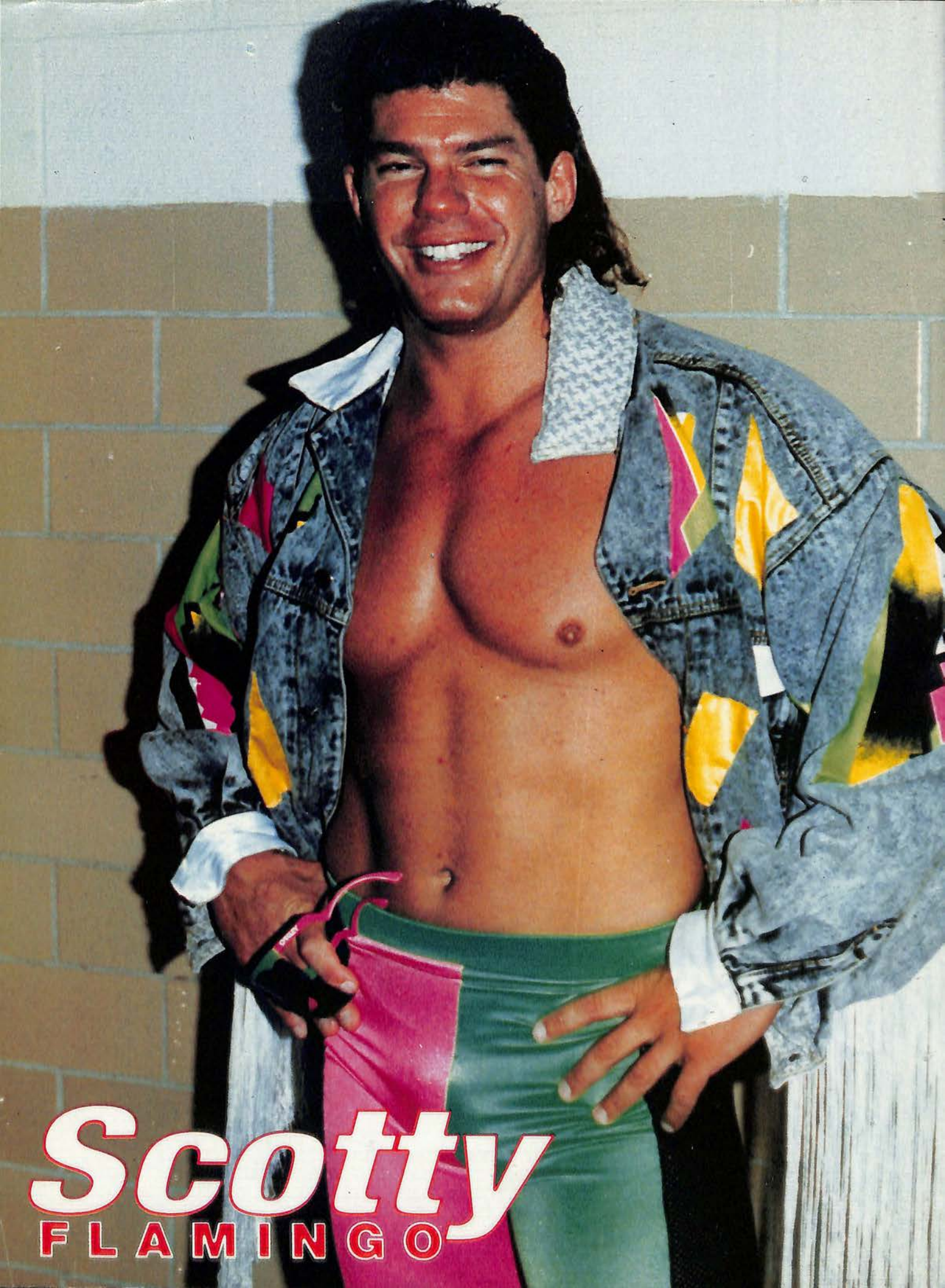
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FLAMINGO

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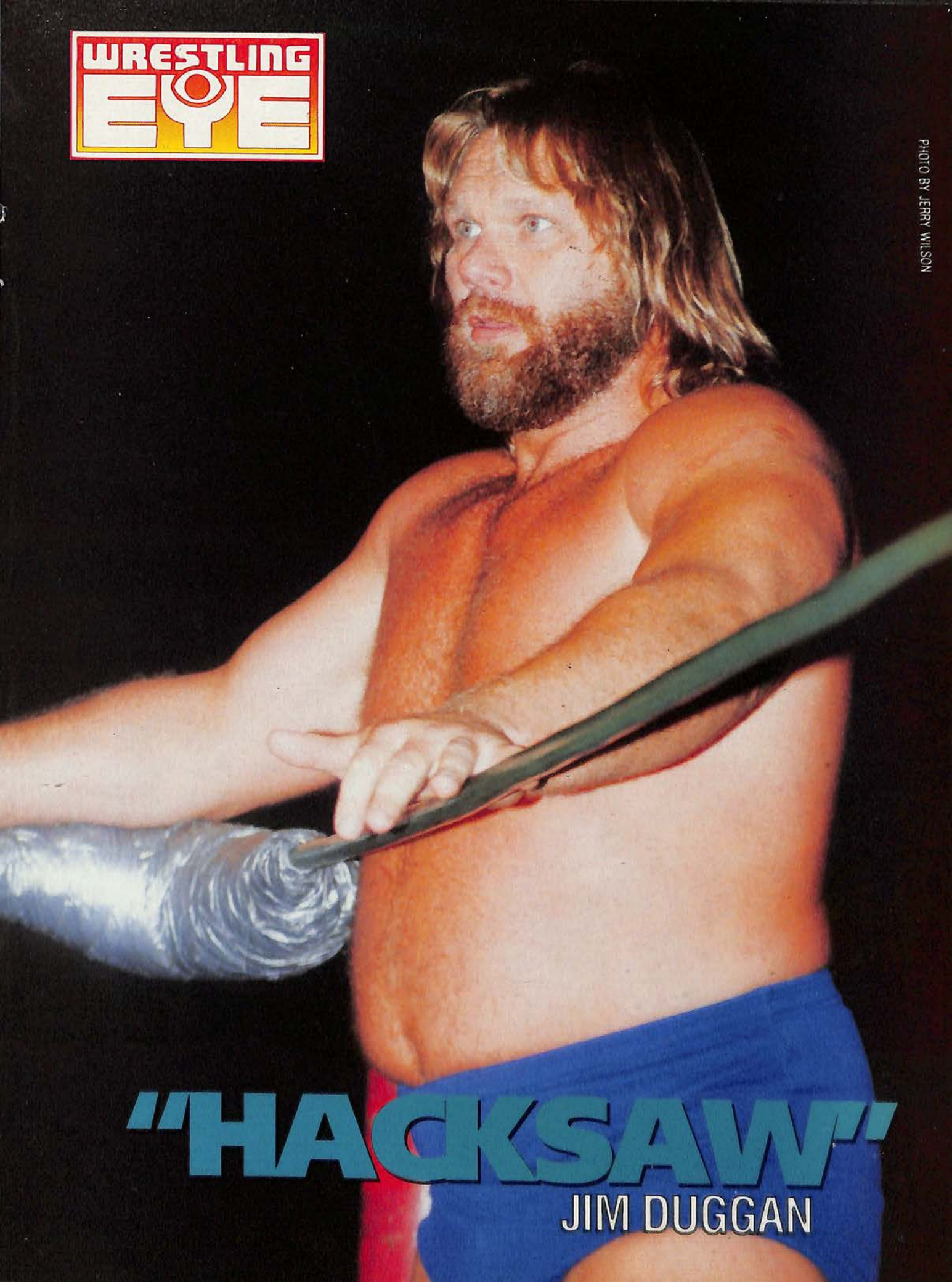


PHOTO BY JERRY WILSON

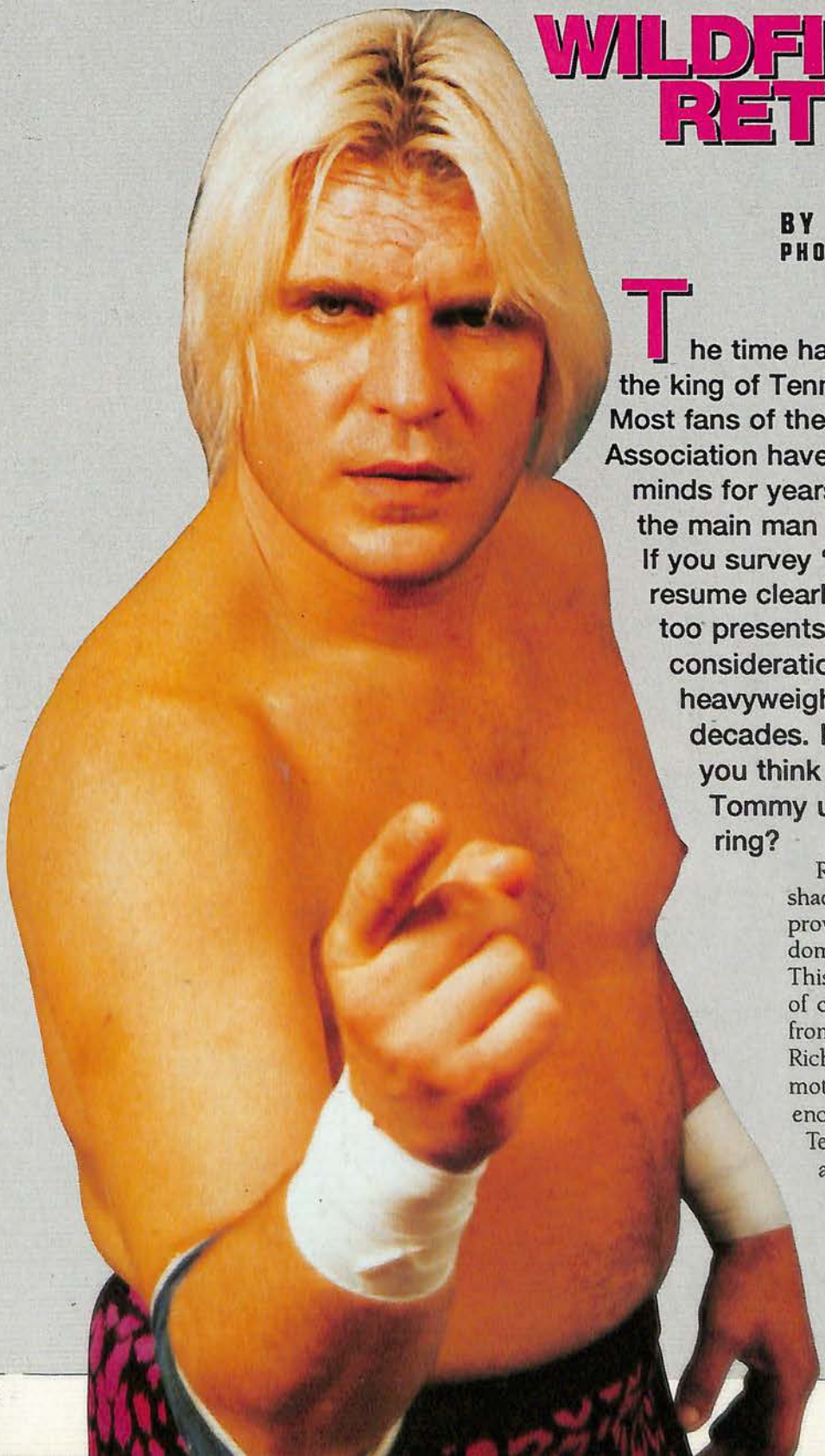
"HACKSAW"

JIM DUGGAN

Beware, JERRY LAWLER

WILDFIRE HAS RETURNED!

BY DON LAIBLE
PHOTOS BY JEFF COHEN



The time has come to find out who the king of Tennessee wrestling is. Most fans of the United States Wrestling Association have had it drilled into their minds for years that Jerry Lawler was the main man there. Well, not so fast. If you survey "Wildfire" Tommy Rich's resume clearly you will see that he too presents a case for consideration as the top heavyweight of the past two decades. How about it Lawler, do you think you can handle the fury Tommy unleashes when in the ring?

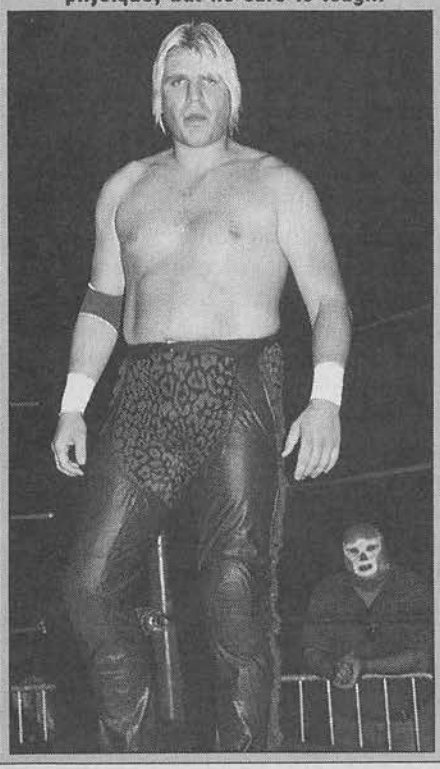
Rich must break out of Jerry's shadows once and for all and prove that the USWA is his kingdom. Let's set the stage properly. This isn't about winning the rights of claiming wrestling superiority from California to Maine. Tommy Rich wants to control a single promotional territory, the USWA which encompasses his home state of Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Indiana. Only Jerry Lawler stands between him and that goal and Rich is fully prepared to fight for what he wants.

To Tommy's credit, in 1980 he won the Southern title. He also had Georgia, National heavyweight, and International

Tommy Rich and Buddy Landell are frequent tag team partners.

straps corralled as well. And most memorable of all, on April 27, 1981 in Augusta,Ga. "Wildfire" stripped then National Wrestling Alliance Champion Harley Race of his heavyweight gold. This was a proud day indeed for Tommy "Wildfire" Rich.

Rich may not have the greatest physique, but he sure is tough!

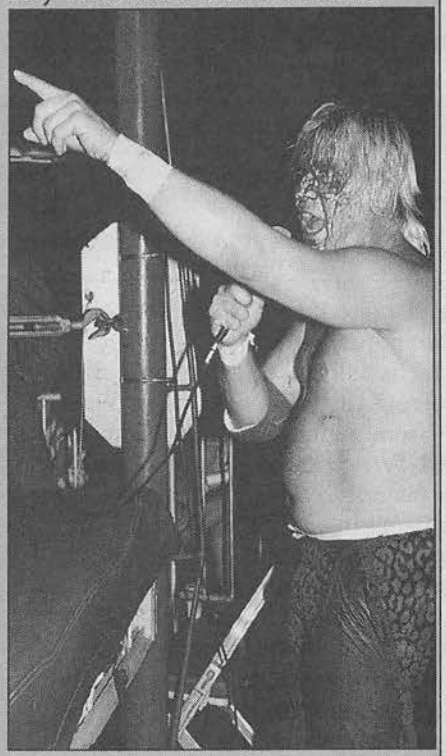


Only one man can be at the top of the rankings, and Rich will not settle for second place. Let there be a showdown between Lawler and Rich, just as gunfighters in the old, untamed West did. Why haven't the two met, or at the very least has a match brought up for discussion by USWA officials? Very good question, many would say. Like thousands of fans, Tommy's all ears waiting for an answer. He belongs in the USWA, and he wants to prove he's the best in the promotion.

Matchmakers in Georgia and Ohio have been booking Tommy regularly and have been pleased with his performances, but slugging it out in Douglasville, Ga. on an All-South Wrestling bill against Steve Lawler (no relation to Jerry) in a street fight, loser must retire match is not where "Wildfire" belongs at this stage of his career. He should be competing before big city crowds in Memphis, Nashville and Louisville. Surely, there must be room on the USWA roster for an established draw, unless someone with great influence within the promotion is pressing to keep him out for fear of what the consequences would be.

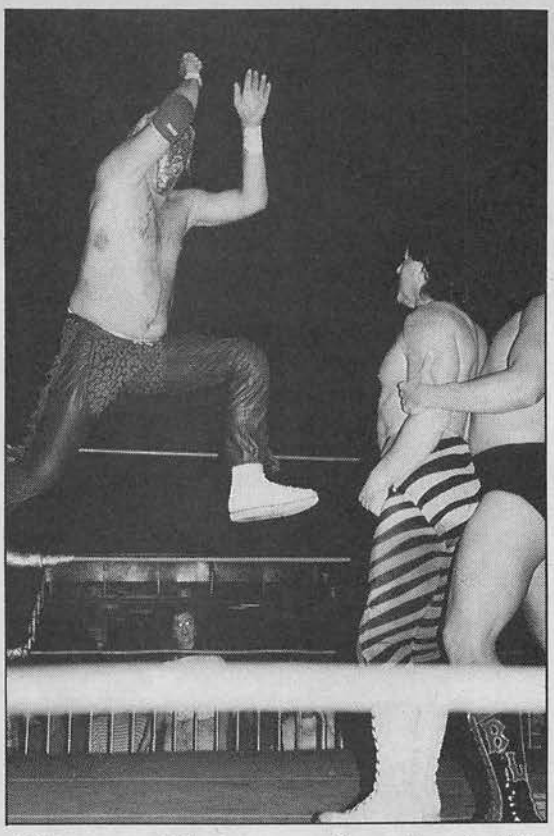
Don't believe for a minute that followers of USWA action wouldn't want Rich to return to his professional roots. The promotion can use the shot in the arm to rejuvenate public interest, too. The Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis is the main show palace for the USWA and routine appearances by Jerry Lawler, Bill Dundee and Mike Miller, year after year has slowly but surely dimmed their star appeal.

All are credits to the sport but have unquestionably become stale acts. The fans are entitled to more for their ticket dollar. Well, if Lawler's ego won't allow him to step aside like a man, Tommy Rich's determination could persuade him. If only the chance is afforded him.



Don't underestimate Tommy "Wildfire" Rich.

Now, it wouldn't be fair for us to label Jerry a closet champion but the longer Rich is kept at a safe distance from the USWA, the clearer the implications of just such a label become. Tommy fared well in WCW in 1991 when on two occasions he was part of a team that captured the six man tag title twice. Still, by 1992, touring nationwide just became a job to him, his heart wasn't into jetting from match to match. If he could perform in a region that allows for him to drive to the towns he's booked, he would then be able to



Rich comes off the top rope with an elbow to Bill Dundee's head.

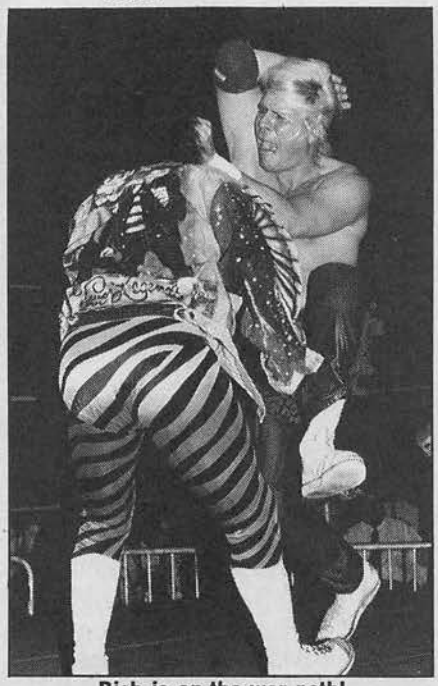
spend more quality time with his wife and daughters.

Rich, who takes great pride in knowing that he was the first wrestler from Tennessee to lay claim to the NWA championship, has had the majority of his most memorable moments inside the ring in USWA towns. That's where he began, and that's where Rich would like to retire. Physically, Tommy, at 6'2" and 220 pounds has trimmed 25 pounds from his competing weight of a few years back. When, and he has no doubt a clash with Lawler will be forthcoming, Rich wants every factor possible working in his advantage.

The referee chosen to attempt to keep some type of order for the Rich-Lawler match shouldn't be any ordinary peacekeeper of the ring. It's going to get nasty and someone who can control these two grappling greats needs to be on hand to keep the peace. Here's one vote calling for "Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert to officiate the brawl. He can be trusted. Gilbert has wrestled with and against both so there wouldn't be much, if any trickery either one of them could slip by him.

You could count on Gilbert to aggressively let the two combatants know when they are doing something against the rules. Most importantly, there's no intimidating "Hotstuff". Also, "Hotstuff" is no stranger to the fans of the USWA. He knows the type of action that they want to see and would make sure that Rich and Lawler provide it. You could bet that a match like this would surely sell out the Coliseum in record time.

How have the promotion's braintrust Jerry Jarrett and Eddie Marlin been able to resist the temptation thus far? The last time they could boast of hanging a "standing room only" sign in Memphis goes back to 1988. Surely it's time to do something to bring the fans back.



Rich is on the war path!

Still, Tommy Rich does not want to embarrass Jerry Lawler. He watched him wrestle when he was a teenager and has nothing but the utmost respect for the man. Tommy wishes see contracts signed in a most dignified and professional manner. Remember Tommy has wrestled against Lawler in the past and knows what he is quite capable of doing.

Why shouldn't Rich have the torch of Tennessee wrestling handed down to him? Lawler, past age 40 must come to grips with the reality of the demands of his craft. It's time for him to relax and go out while on top as a winner. Still if the match is signed "Wildfire" may have to score a pinfall on him while his using the "Thesz Press". You can be sure that once the ink is dry on the contract neither man will submit. They'll bleed buckets or be knocked unconscious before yelling "uncle".

To cover their investment, besides retaining Eddie Gilbert as the special guest referee, USWA officials may wish to summon past Memphis mat legends like Jackie Fargo, Len Rossie and Sputnik Monroe to assume the roles of lumberjacks at ringside. Anyone, including Gilbert that gets tossed through the ring ropes onto the Coliseum floor would not so gently be assisted to their feet and rolled swiftly back into the "war zone".

A guaranteed victory, minus any technicalities must be agreed upon. Just think, regardless of how the would-be showdown between Rich and Lawler concludes, there are rematches to consider. Financial successes would surely be lucrative from this initial pairing.

Each wrestler may be urged by the USWA to take two weeks to a month off before bell time, in order to train uninterrupted and specifically for each other. Oh yes, such a historic challenge is extremely important to Southern wrestling fans. Those darn rumors continue to swirl around USWA locker rooms of Tommy being past his prime. Those who are spreading such tales are the same individuals not rushing to prove it so, face to face.

Okay, here's the deal Jerry Lawler, Tommy isn't going to change his mind or simply go away if the USWA continues to ignore his requests to meet you in the ring. Sooner or later you will have to deal with "Wildfire", why not get it over with now? Embarrassment is tough to swallow at any time, "King". □

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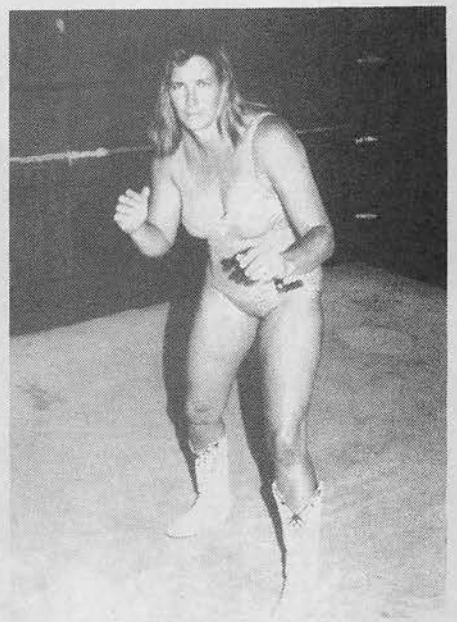
GrudgeMatches

A-5 "Unfinished Business"

Susan Green VS Candi Divine

Susan Green, Divine's opponent, gleamed at the idea of having no audience. She felt her skills, strength, stamina and fighting courage could stand on their own. After all, Green and Divine have both had other private GrudgeMatches, and they know what it's like.



When two tough veterans meet in the ring, there is no telling what will happen. Anything could happen. The audience can play a big part in helping their favorite wrestler, much like the home team advantage. **Candi Divine** is popular with the fans and she draws from their energy in her matches. In this GrudgeMatch, Divine would be entirely on her own. There is no audience to feel any extra energy from.

Both wrestlers are very serious before the match begins, and things get really quiet as they listen to each other speak. As the two blondes prepare to destroy each other in center ring, the tension is thick and the action soon breaks loose. They never let up on the pressure and the action would eventually take it's toll.

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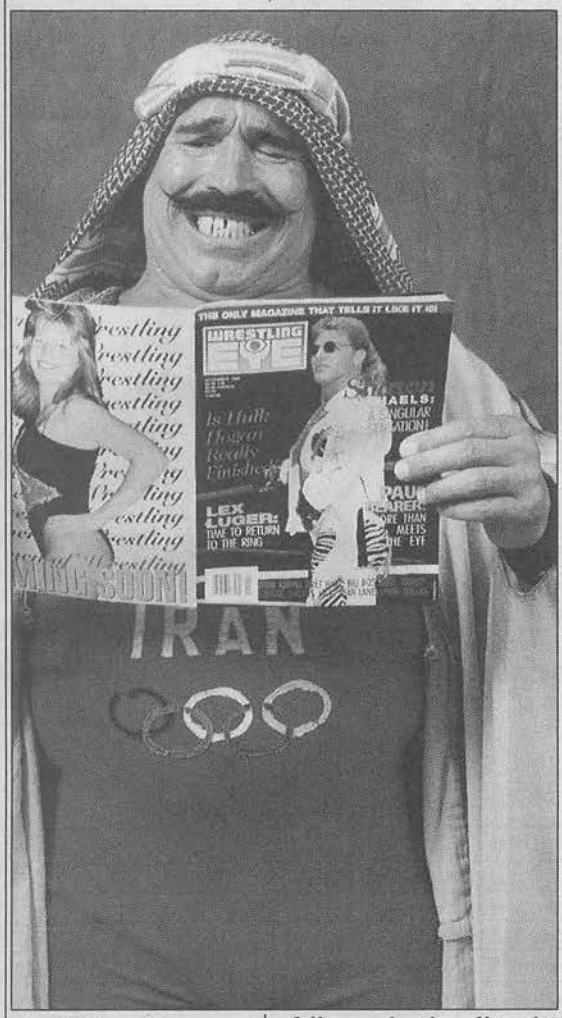
The IRON SHEIK'S

BY GIL EDWARDS
PHOTOS BY JEFF COHEN

Why is there a conspiracy against The Iron Sheik in pursuing his wrestling career? If you think such a bold statement is without merit, then try and remember the last time you saw him perform anywhere in the United States. The date and opponent are a bit fuzzy in your mind, huh? Let's examine why a substantial number of fans and wrestling employers are apparently giving The Iron Sheik the cold shoulder.



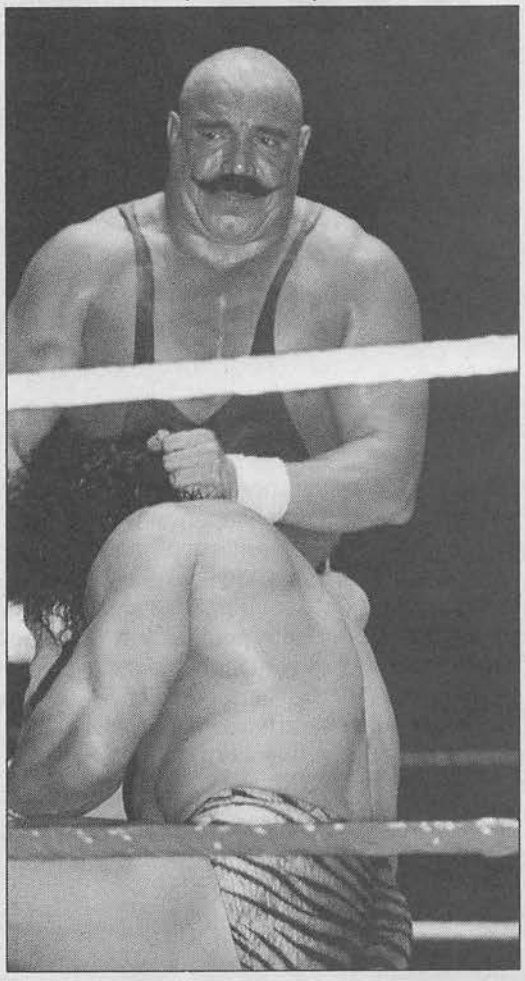
▲ *The Iron Sheik loves what he reads in WRESTLING EYE!*

We're talking about a man who excelled for his native Iranian olympic squad; a man who has conquered many of the most prized championships in the sport's history and now he can't get the right time of day from promoters. As Colonel Mustafa, The Iron Sheik made a mistake. Still, he saw the error of his ways and is now is trying to get wrestling dates. It remains a mystery as to why no promoter has taken him up on his wrestling offers.

Yes, we're talking about the same fellow who headlined WWF cards presented in every major Northeast city, as well as in the Midwest and on the West coast. You mean The Iron Sheik is all packed, his car fully gassed, yet he has no place to go? Well, this is what exactly what's taking place on the American wrestling scene today. The injustices being administered to his career must be brought to the surface for all parties concerned to recognize their shortcomings. That's correct, shortcomings.

We as open minded people are supposed to be forgiving, right? Becoming an instant Iraqi billed as Colonel Mustafa wasn't, and I repeat wasn't The Iron Sheik's call. But by agreeing to the World Wrestling Federation's characterization, this poor decision still haunts his career. You can claim, no one held a gun to his head to lose the Iranian identity mat fans were familiar with for nearly two decades. Still,

As Colonel Mustafa, The Sheik experienced no success.



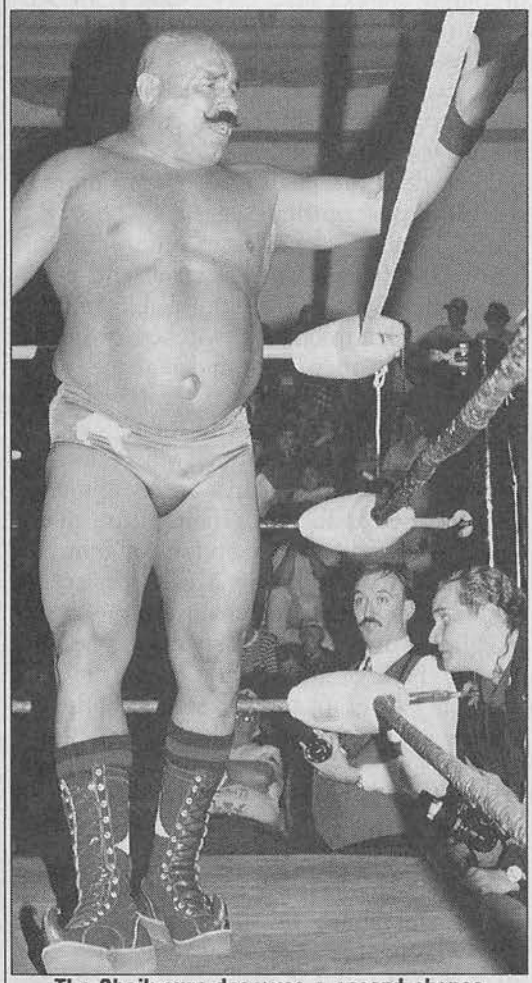
should The Iron Sheik (Khosrow Vaziri) be punished for one bum move?

In pro wrestling as in many other professions when opportunity comes knocking, closing the door once may nail it shut permanently. Right here and now, without exception you are notified that The Iron Sheik is ready, willing and most able to create havoc for a promotion in your neighborhood should promoters be able to get past the Colonel Mustafa fiasco.

Don't hold the Persian Gulf War and the

Toughest Challenge

real life tragedies surrounding it accountable to The Iron Sheik of Teheran, Iran. When America was on the brink of it's conflict with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, the World Wrestling Federation made a poor call and tried to cash in on the war. January 1991 was when one-time G.I. Joe patriot Sergeant Slaughter transformed into an evil, Iraqi sympathizer and stole the WWF championship from The Ultimate



The Sheik sure deserves a second chance.

Warrior in Miami, Florida. Such a turn of events became the best of times and the worst of times for The Iron Sheik.

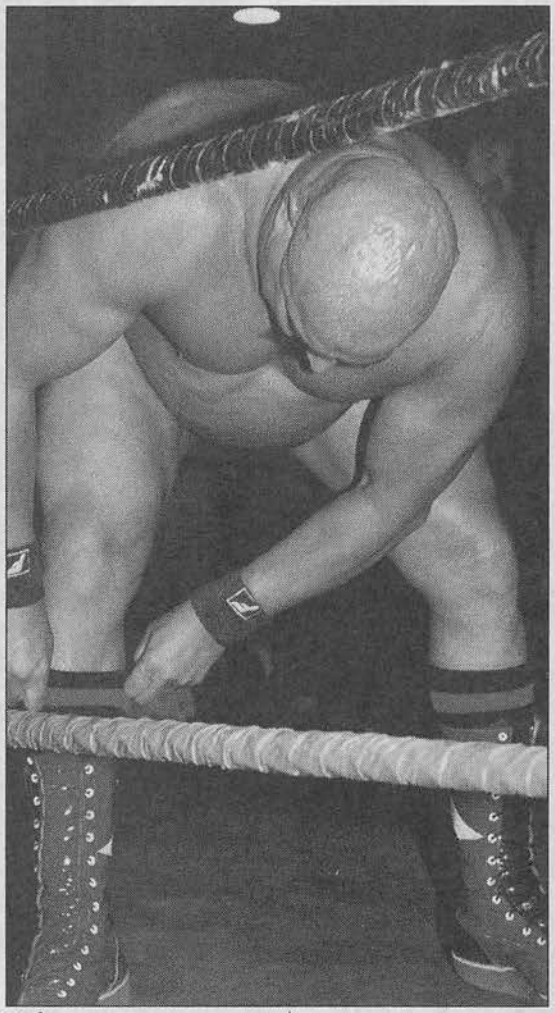
Many fans were confused as to who Slaughter's new sidekick was as they had always known The Sheik as the man who on December 26, 1983 defeated then WWF Champion Bob Backlund for the title. The Iron Sheik also co-held the Federation's tag title with Nikolai Volkoff in 1985. Now, out of nowhere he was supposed to be an Iraqi?

Naturally, arena fans voiced their hatred towards "Colonel Sheik", he was at the time representing the anti-American soldier. And the WWF was hoping the more dissatisfaction with him, the more dollars would be coughed up to see him defeated. Unfortunately, the plan backfired badly and The Iron Sheik was left out in the cold. There weren't any long range plans made for The Iron Sheik's employment within the company and, at 43 years old, he was out on his tail. What gratitude was shown to him for doing what was asked?

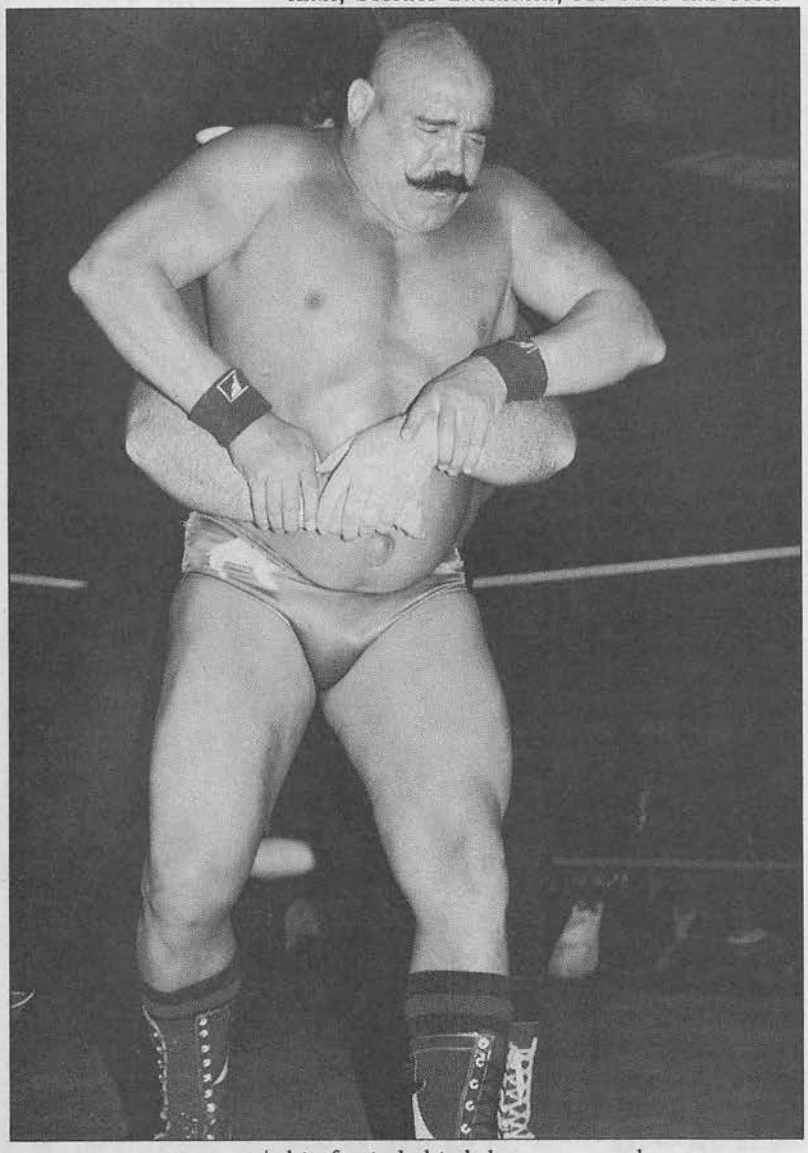
Nothing, at all. Just a "here's you hat, there's the door, what's your hurry to leave" for The Iron Sheik. Slaughter was remade into a patriotic hero by the WWF hierarchy. Heck, now he's paraded publicly as the chief referee. As we go to press in no way has the Federation attempted to have The Iron Sheik make amends with the American patrons. The man from Iron was callously dropped from the talent roster in the WWF scheme of things, it's as if he never existed.

Bob Backlund at age 43 has been given a second life in the ring by being brought back to the promotion with much fanfare, why not The Iron Sheik? No wonder a network of bookers and matchmakers are hesitant to sign him to their line-ups, they fear being labeled in their communities as traitors. And by last hitting the U.S. television scene as Mustafa, it's only natural that The Iron Sheik's marquee value is stagnant, at best with new wrestling fans.

▼ The Man from Iran reaches into his "boot of tricks".



You have to go back to 1989 to his stint with the National Wrestling Alliance, which for all intents and purposes doesn't exist anymore, to remember when The Iron Sheik was billed as such on American TV. It's downright ignorance on promoters parts to turn their backs on The Iron Sheik's invigorating ways in between the ring ropes. If age is still a major factor, or shall we say excuse not to utilize the Iranian, besides Backlund, Ric Flair has seen his fortieth birthday come and go, too. And Flair is still generally regarded as the very best at what he does on American soil.



▲ *The Iron Sheik wants to prove himself one more time.*

The Sheik doesn't yet possess the washboard-like stomach of Rick Rude, but promoters haven't given him a reason to hit the gym daily as he did years back. Still, it's a pity that no promotional leader remembers the fact that The Iron Sheik used to play before sell-out crowds.

The Sheik is not promising to sell out arenas with his first appearances but he's certainly a commodity worth taking a chance on, especially if he can rework that same magic with his audiences. Why not see what the man has left in him? What's it gong to cost, a couple hundred dollars for expenses is all it would run perspective employers. The Sheik resides in the Atlanta, Georgia area, World Championship Wrestling's hub city, so why Executive Vice President Cowboy Bill Watts hasn't summoned him for a try-out is beyond logic.

Tony Atlas, The Barbarian and Shane Douglas are among a pack of once "washed up" veterans who have had their careers resurrected by the Cowboy. Over in WWF country, The Bushwackers, The Brooklyn Brawler and Tito Santana, are all being utilized on an almost daily basis. One has to wonder why. None of the foursome can be remotely responsible for creating longer ticket lines or increased pay per view orders.

Now does the picture clear even more regarding the conspiracy against The Iron Sheik? Here's a keen idea to reintroduce him to the Federation. Restart a feud between the Sheik and Backlund, remember when the championship switched owners? It was due to then Backlund manager Arnie Skaaland throwing in the towel as a way for his man to concede the contest. Or, the Sheik could replace "Mr. Perfect" who exited the web of dishonesty spun by Flair and Razor Ramon. Then, again, managing is always a viable option for him.

Let Cactus Jack be the Sheik's project in WCW. In teaching Cactus an array of amateur holds as well as pro style submission moves, there would be little doubt of Jack becoming a complete pro. Still, if both leaders of the major promotions feels the Sheik needs to re-establish his worth, the Man from Iran promises not to argue if he's put in the opening contests on cards opposite Barry Horowitz or Virgil. All he wants is a chance to demonstrate his sincerity in obtaining his goal.

Maybe for the time being The Iron Sheik needs to be directing his energies for regular employment with the United States Wrestling Association. Pair him with Jerry Lawler, then set them loose on The Moondogs. Such tag matches are sure to liven up television ratings and increase arena attendance. Both The Sheik and Lawler have never worked as a duo, why not begin now?

Talk is cheap, promoters, pick up the telephone and do yourself the best favor possible thus far in 1993, book The Iron Sheik. You can thank us later. □

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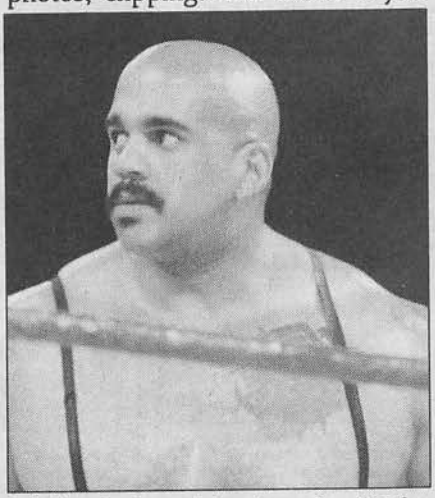

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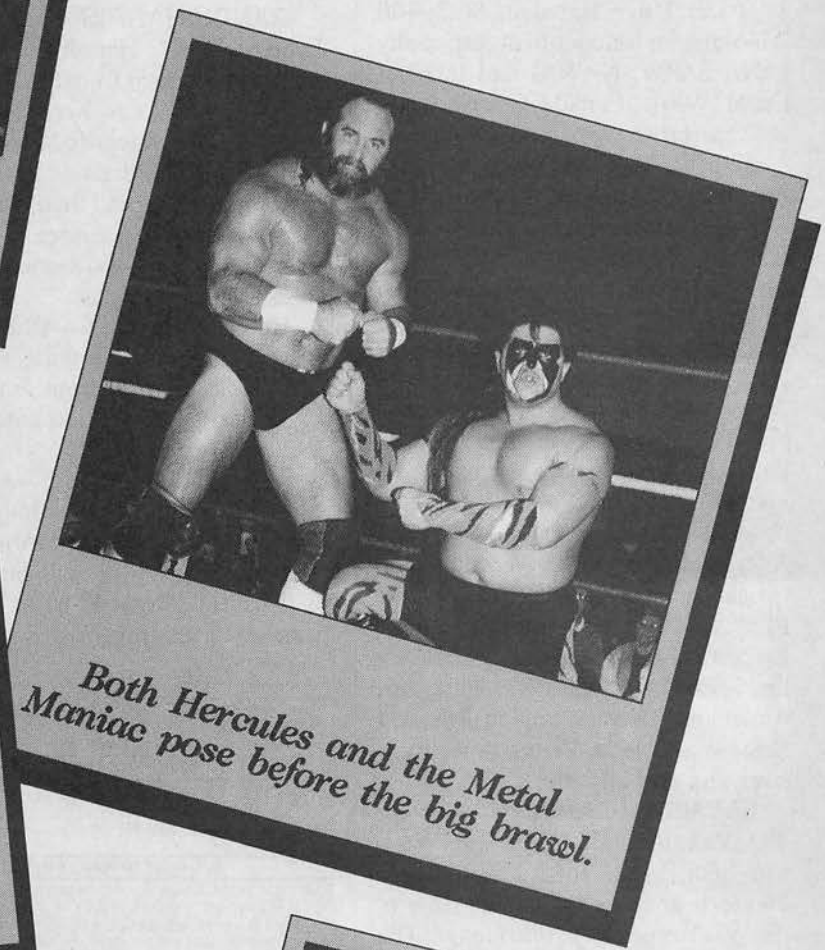
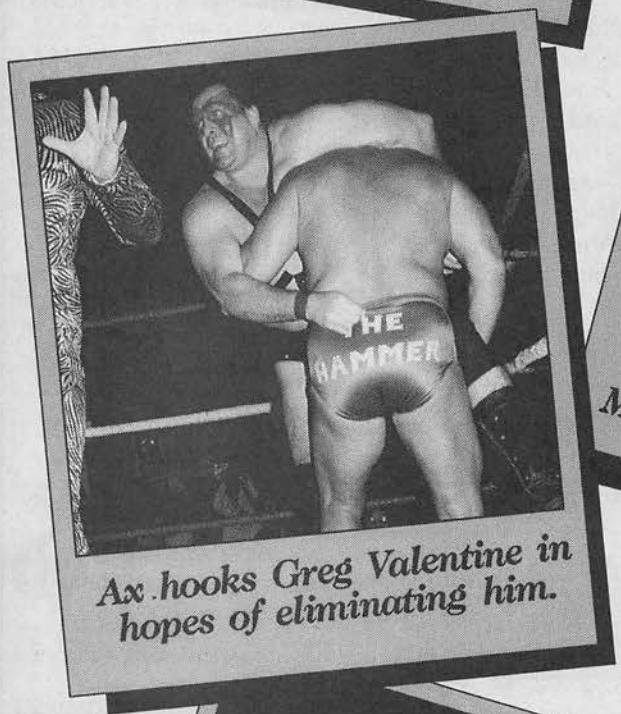
THE UNIVERSAL Battle

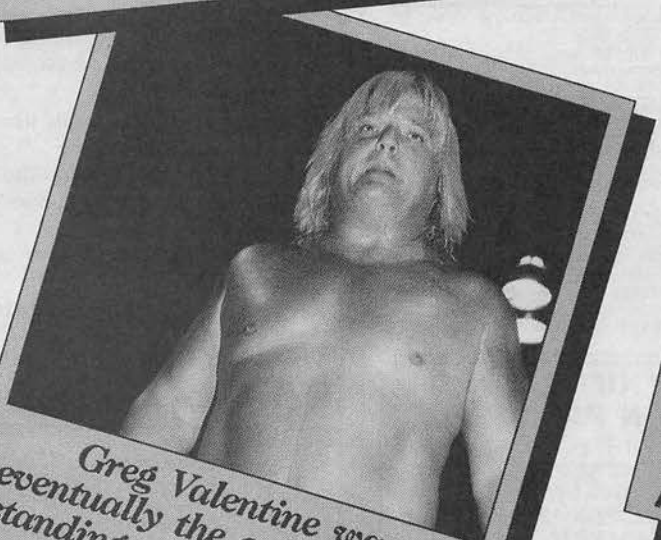
Super Tiger attempts to eliminate Hercules from the action.



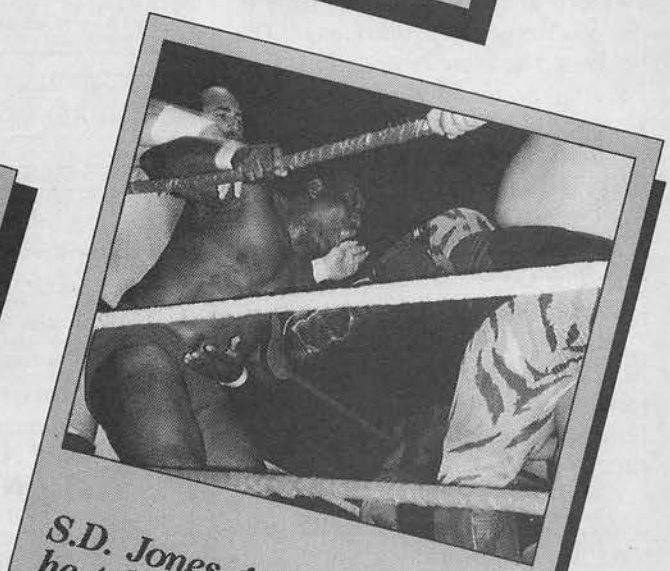
Both Hercules and the Metal Maniac pose before the big brawl.



Ax hooks Greg Valentine in hopes of eliminating him.



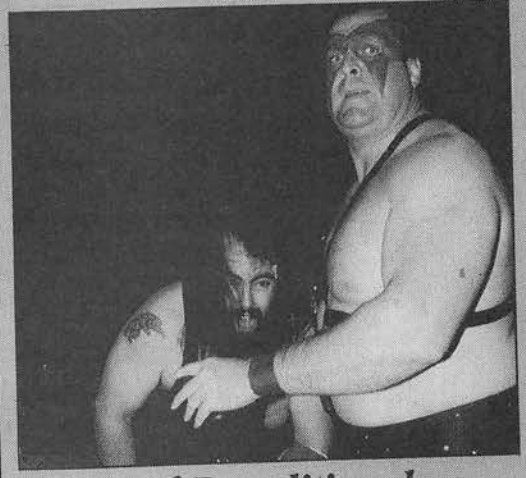
Greg Valentine was eventually the only man left standing and went on to be declared the winner.



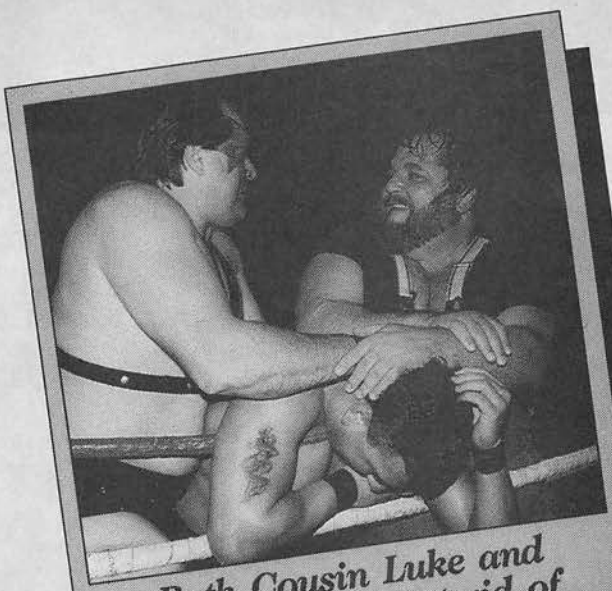
S.D. Jones gets cornered as he takes a boot to the mid-

WRESTLING WAY

Royal



Ax of Demolition does damage to the Kodiak Bear.



Both Cousin Luke and Ax attempt to get rid of Damien Stone..

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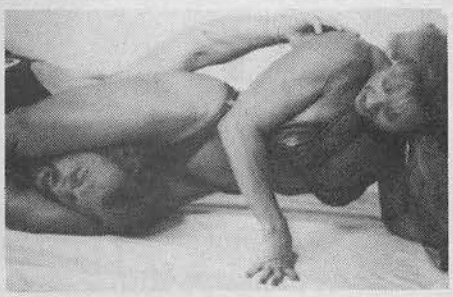
VT-102 CINDY VS. KRIS

VT-103 KRIS VS. LISA



VT-201 CINDY VS. RUSTY

VT-202 RAGINA VS. RUSTY

VT-203 LORI VS. ROB

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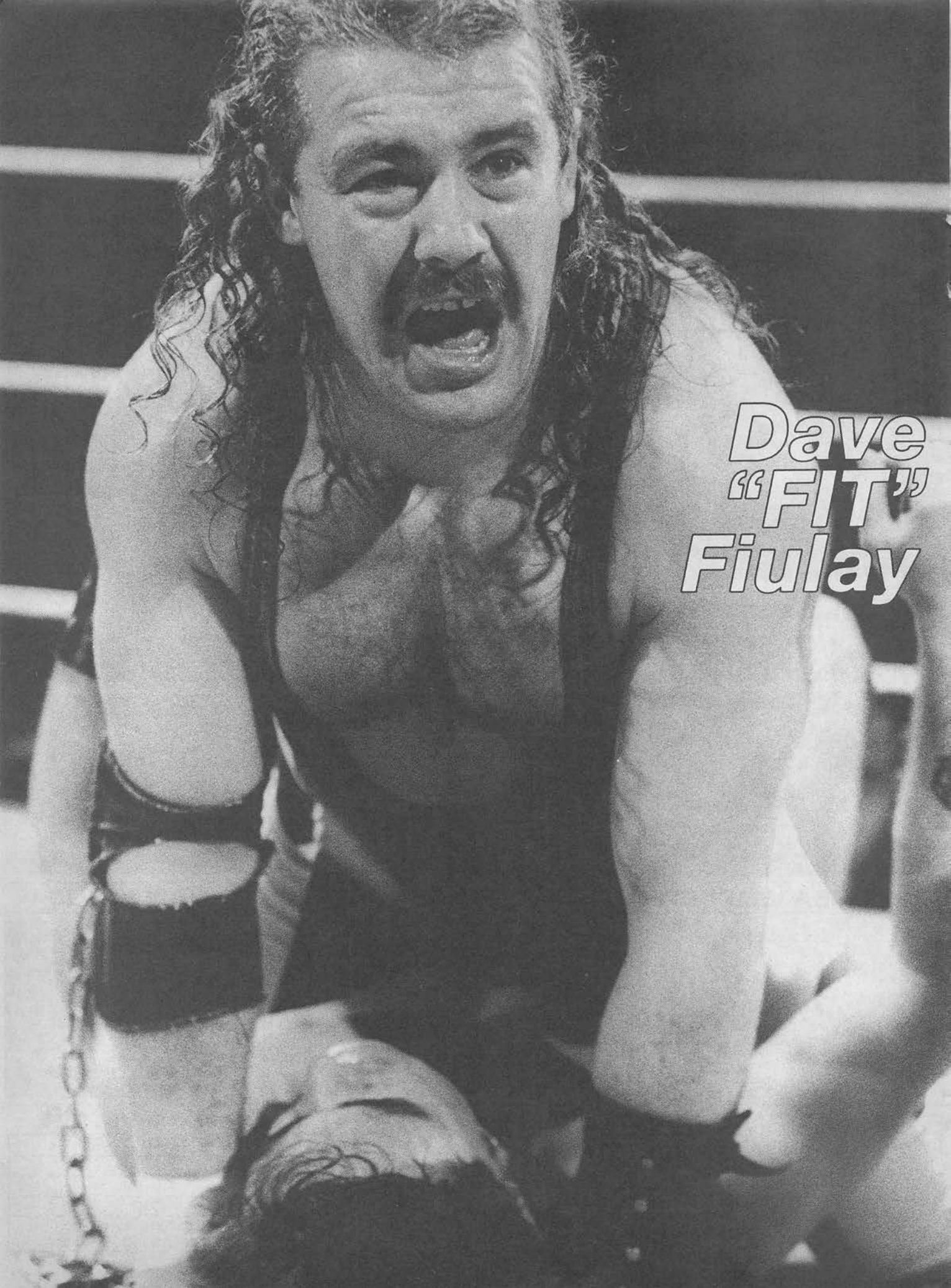
Dave
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Fiulay

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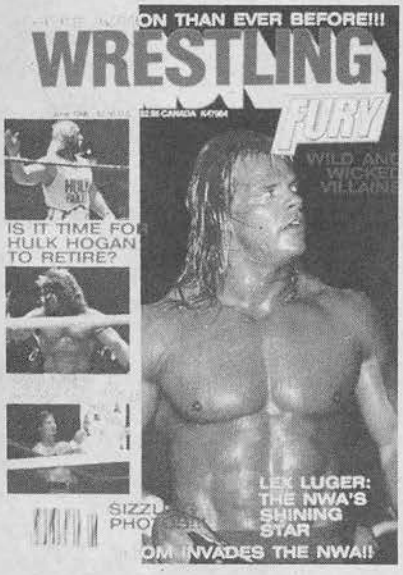

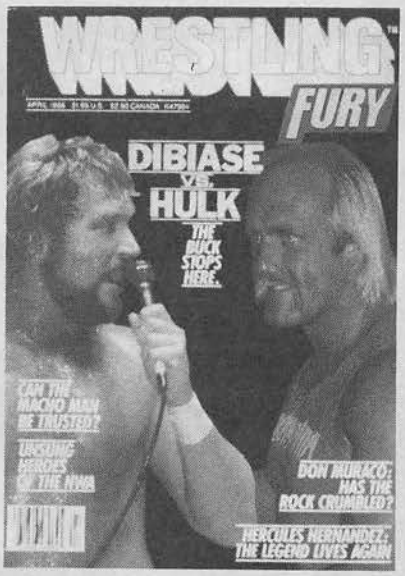

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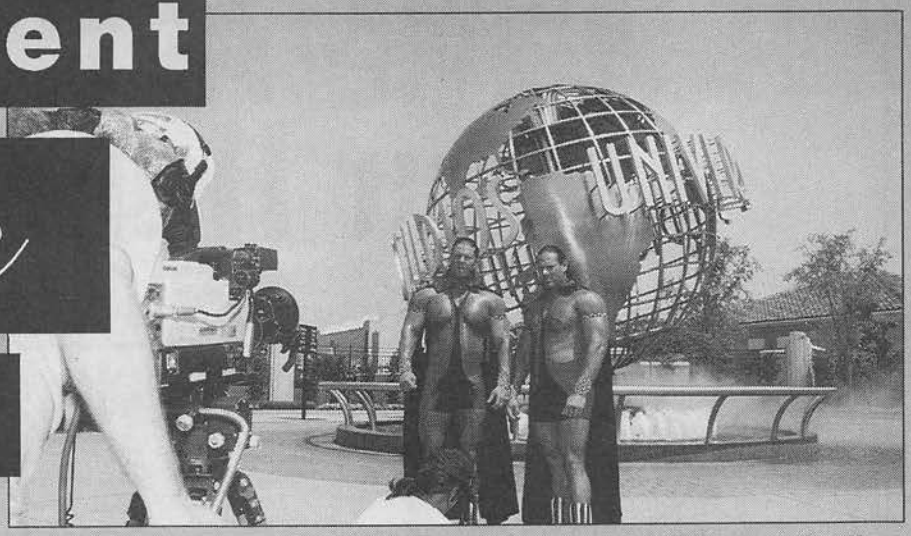
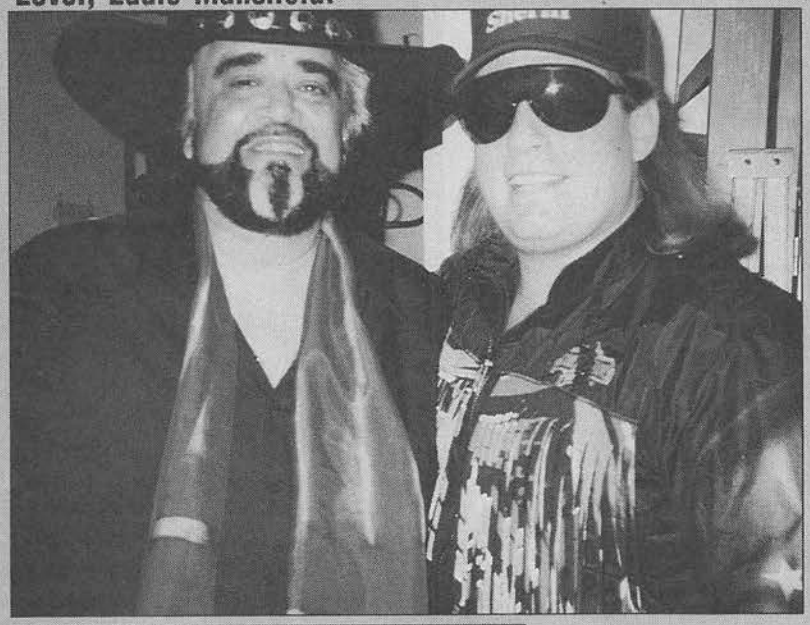


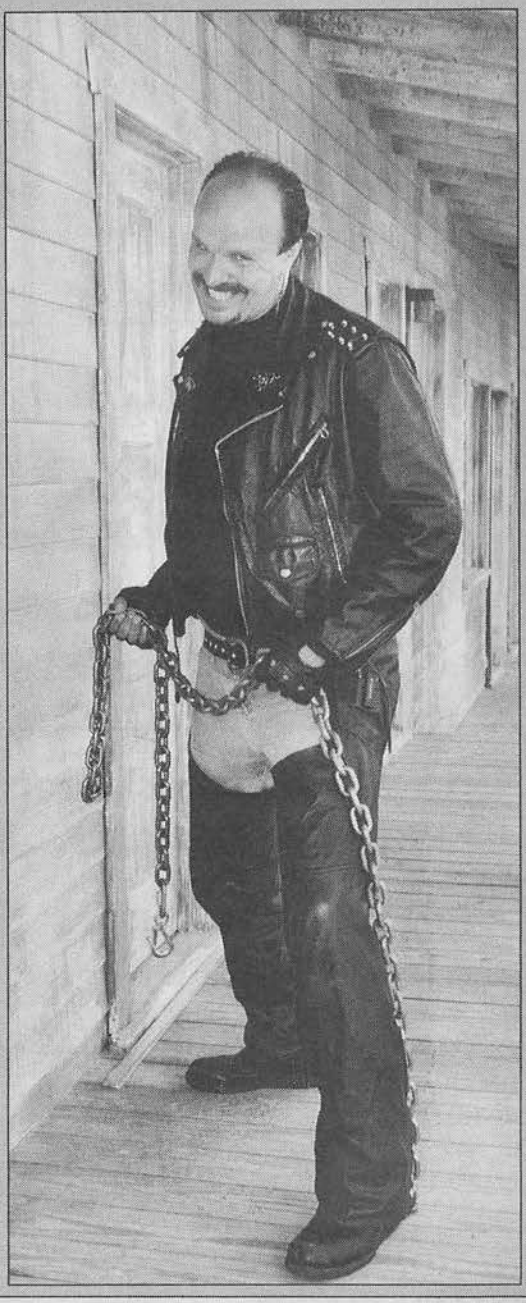
▲ Thunder and Lightning pose for the camera at Universal Studios.

▼ Radio personality Wolfman Jack poses with IWF spokesperson, The Continental Lover, Eddie Mansfield.

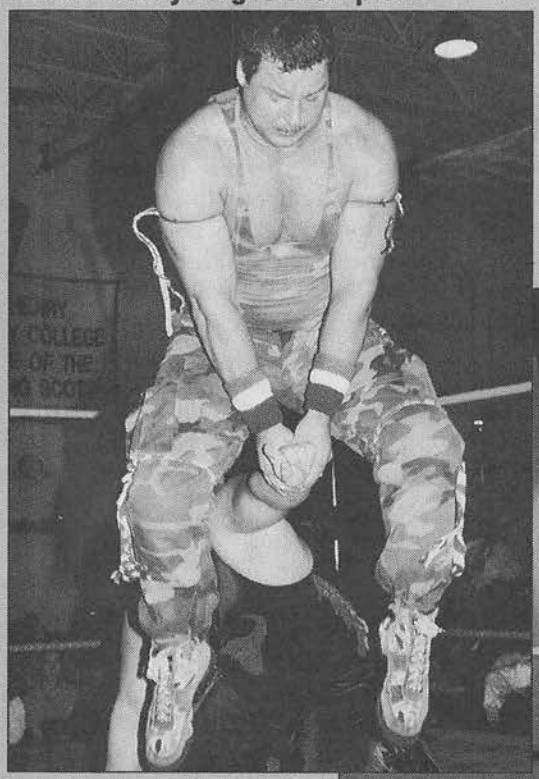


◀ The IWF tag team champs are Kip Winchester and Brett Colt.

▶ The Possessor is one mean dude!



▲ Solid Gold pose with their father, Jose Estrada, former WWF Junior Heavyweight champion.



◀ Rambo does damage to the Hangman's arm while competing for Windy City wrestling.

▶ The Texas Hangman retaliates with a phenomenal elbow drop on to a prone Rambo.

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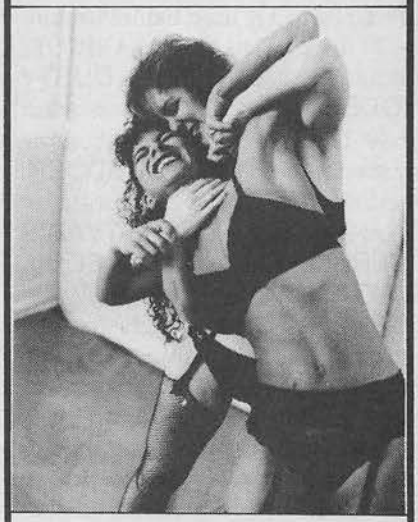

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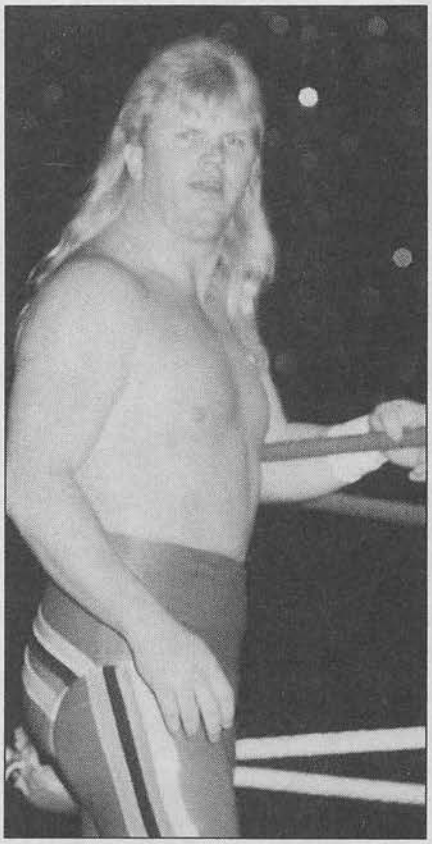
PHANTOM of the ring

Well, I'm back wrestling fans with this month's news and gossip. . . **TOO COLD SCORPIO** has made a tremendous impact in WCW. His finishing maneuver, a double somersault death leap has become one of the most spectacular moves in the business. How about a match between TOO COLD and **JUSHIN LIGER**? Now that would really be hot!. . . The **ULTIMATE WARRIOR** is currently seeing action on the independent circuit. He's also negotiating to wrestle in Europe with The Wrestling World Superstars. The WARRIOR cannot use the name, nor the face paint he used in the WWF because of a copyright agreement. So, the WARRIOR will now be called THE DINGO WARRIOR, a name he formerly used before becoming THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR, without any face paint. . . **DUSTY RHODES** is scheduled to wrestle for Windy City Wrestling this coming May teaming with **DICK MURDOCH**. Together, the two will reunite to reform the infamous **OUTLAWS** . . .**TERRY FUNK** wrestled **EDDIE GILBERT** in Wayne, N.J. for the World Wrestling Alliance in match that just may qualify as a possible candidate for match of the year. The match was an old fashioned Texas Death rules confrontation which could only end when one competitor was unable to continue. TERRY defeated EDDIE after 26:48 and twelve falls. . . WWF Champion, **BRET HART** is now flying first class much like all the other World title holders have in the past, but he's not getting the same limousine treatment. Apparently this shows the economic turmoil in the WWF. . . Lots of new faces in the WWF including **THE "PITBULL" STEINER BROTHERS**, who will undoubtedly capture the WWF Tag Team Title real soon. Also **JERRY "THE KING" LAWLER** has wrestled for the WWF and doing a



Bobby Eaton should be appearing in WWF rings shortly.

tremendous job both wrestling and commentating. There's also talk of **CARLOS COLON** from Puerto Rico and **GENICHIRO TENRYU** of Japan coming to the Federation on a regular basis. . . Many are predicting that **STING** will regain the WCW Heavyweight title very shortly. Time will tell. . . **JESSE "THE BODY" VENTURA**, the current mayor of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota will be running for U.S. Senate in 1994 . . . Many fans have written in to say that **MICHAELS** vs. **JANNETTY** should have captured Match of the Year and Feud Of the Year honors. I feel the same way, but try to convince these other nimrod editors!. . . Also, The Phantom personally feels that **DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE** should have captured Rookie Of The Year. Well anyway he gets the unofficial Phantom of the Ring, Overlooked Rookie Of The Year Award!. . . **PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY**, who was rumored to be going to the WWF in April is staying put due to an ironclad contract he has with WCW that doesn't expire until January 1994 . . . Also rumored to be on their way to the WWF are **ARN ANDERSON**, **BOBBY EATON**, and **"STUNNING" STEVE AUSTIN**. . . **L.O.D.'s ANIMAL** will be taking two years off from wrestling, due to some ailing injuries and word has it, ANIMAL will be collecting quite a lucrative sum of money from the insurance company, Lloyd's of London. . . **HAWK**, meanwhile has formed quite an impressive tag team with **KENSUKI SASASKI** of Japan. Rumor is that this team may be joining WCW very shortly. . . HAWK recently wrestled 6'11", 500 pound, **GIANT HAYSTACKS** in Bremen, Germany for the Catch Wrestling Association. . . Some other American greats wrestling for **OTTO WANZ'S** CWA include **DERRICK DUKES**, **LARRY CAMERON**, **RIP ROGERS**, **HER-**

CULES, SUPERFLY JIMMY SNUKA and EDDIE GILBERT. Things are heating up in Europe! (A special Phantom hello to all my European readers!) **THE DYNAMITE KID** has returned to wrestling, signing on for a match in Great Britain. DYNAMITE is said to weigh a mere 160 pounds. . . **EL GIGANTE** is predicted to make a huge impact on the WWF. Of course EL GIGANTE is currently under the tutelage of **ANDRE THE GIANT. . . NIKITA KOLOFF** has been absent for a few months nursing a hernia. . . Word is that many wrestlers will be leaving WCW within the next few months with a couple surprises. In an attempt to cut costs this will in my opinion, hurt the promotion in the long run. . . **THE GENIUS (LANNY POFFO)** is currently working with his father **ANGELO** in the Florida region. . . **EARTHQUAKE** is gone from the WWF and he hopes to have a bright future in Japan. . . **DAVEY BOY SMITH** is also rumored to be heading to Japan. . . Until next month this is the Phantom signing off! □

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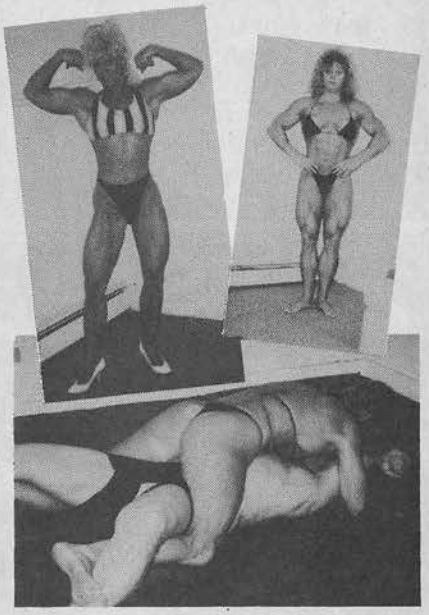

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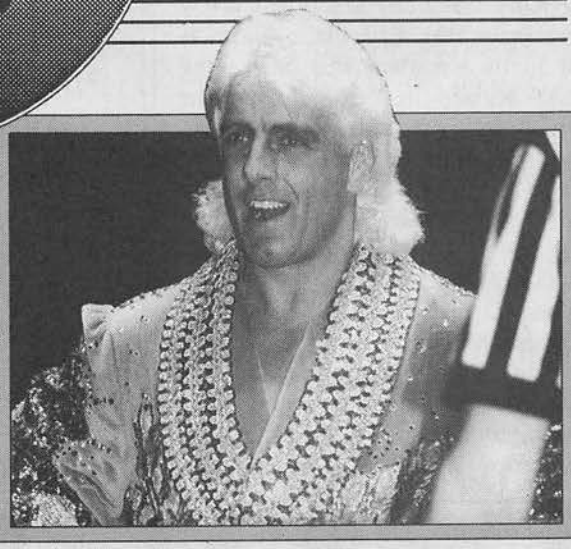
WWF

CHAMP—BRET "HITMAN" HART

1. Ric Flair
2. Shawn Michaels
3. Mr. Perfect
4. The Undertaker
5. Randy Savage
6. Razor Ramon
7. Kamala
8. Boh Backlund
9. Marty Jannetty
10. Big Bossman
11. Nailz
12. Papa Shango
13. Crush
14. Yokozuna
15. Bam Bam Bigelow



▶ **Ric Flair is the top contender.**

USWA

1. Jerry Lawler
2. Koko B. Ware
3. Jeff Jarrett
4. Brian Christopher
5. Danny Davis
6. Bill Dundee
7. Eddie Gilbert
9. Tommy Rich
10. Doug Gilbert

▼ **Jerry Lawler is top dog in the USWA.**

▲ **The Rock 'n Roll Express are the fifth best tag team.**

TOP 15 TAG TEAMS

1. Money, Inc
2. Ricky Steamboat & Shane Douglas
3. The Steiner Brothers
4. The Head Shrinkers
5. The Rock 'n Roll Express
6. The Heavenly Bodies
7. The Nasty Boys
8. The Fantastics
9. The Beverly Brothers
10. The Texas Hangmen
11. The Bushwackers
12. Eddie & Doug Gilbert
13. Bobby Eaton & Arn Anderson
14. Road Warrior Hawk & Kensuki Sasaki
15. The Terminators

WCW

CHAMP—RON SIMMONS

1. "Ravishing" Rick Rude
2. Sting
3. Big Van Vader
4. Ricky Steamboat
5. Shane Douglas
6. Barry Windham
7. Dustin Rhodes
8. "Stunning" Steve Austin
9. Cactus Jack
10. Van Hammer
11. Johnny B. Badd
12. Brian Pillman
13. Too Cold Scorpio
14. Tom Zenk
15. Johnny Gunn

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

1. Jushin Liger
2. Brad Armstrong
3. The Lightning Kid
4. Franz Schumann
5. Dave "Fit" Finlay
6. Brian Christopher
7. The Cheetah Kid
8. Jimmy Backlund
9. Ultimo Dragon
10. Brian Pillman

TOP TEN MANAGERS

1. Paul Bearer
2. Jimmy Hart
3. Mr. Fuji
4. Jim Cornette
5. Madusa Miceli
6. Harley Race
7. Michael Hayes
8. Reverend Slick
9. Harvey Whippleman
10. Richard Lee

WORLD WOMEN'S RATINGS

1. Misty Blue
2. Wendi Richter
3. Terri Power
4. Madusa Miceli
5. Bambi
6. Heidi Lee Morgan
7. Candi Divine
8. Miss Texas
9. Linda Dallas
10. Kat Leroux

▶ **Terri Power ranks #3 in the ladies division.**

INTERNATIONAL RATINGS

1. Masa Chono (New Japan)
2. The Great Muta (New Japan)
3. Tatsumi Fuginami (New Japan)
4. Rambo (CWA—Europe)
5. Genichiro Tenryu (WAR—Japan)
6. Dos Caras (Mexico)
7. Atsushi Onita (FMW—Japan)
8. Negro Casas (Mexico)
9. Stan Hansen (All Japan)
10. Dave "Fit" Finlay (CWA- Europe)

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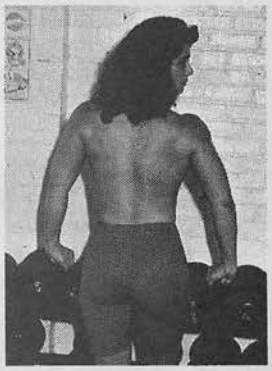

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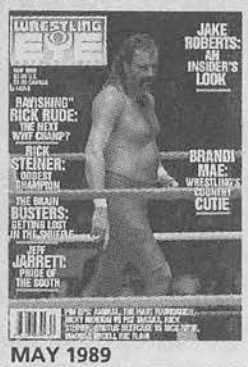

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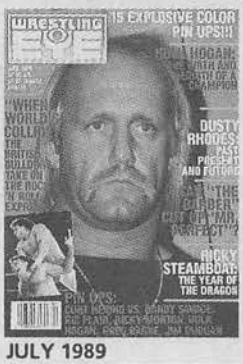

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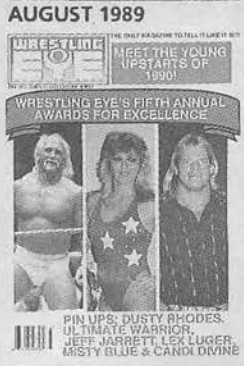

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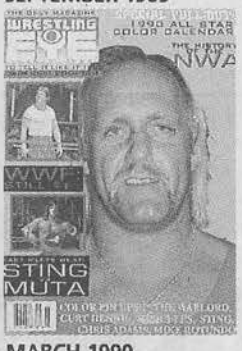

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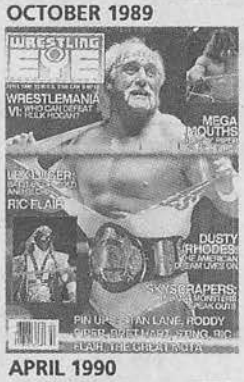

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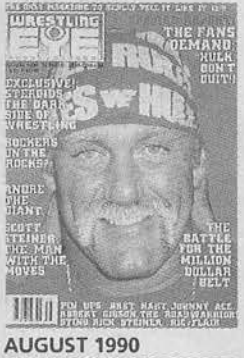

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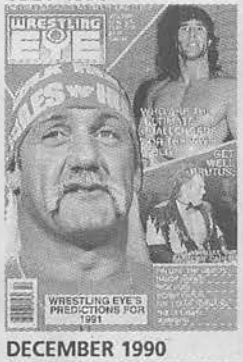

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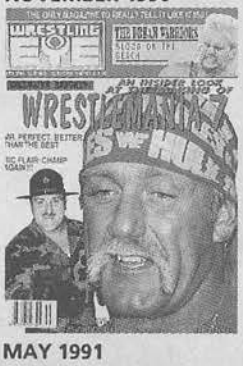

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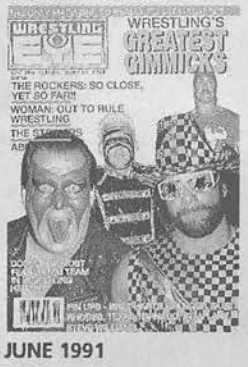

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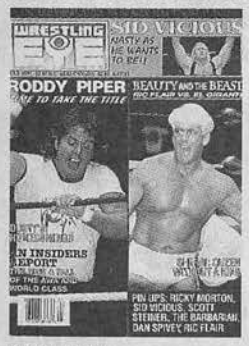

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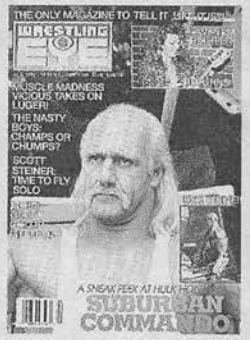

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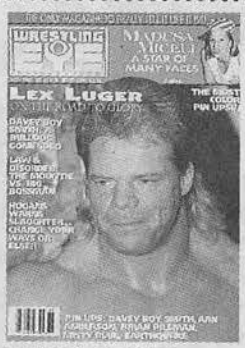

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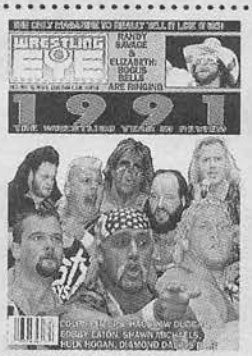

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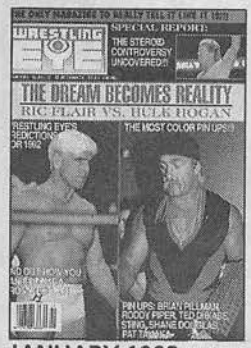

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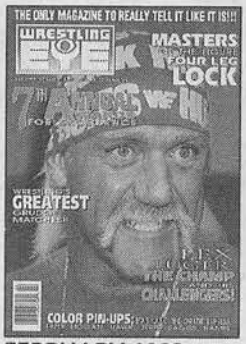

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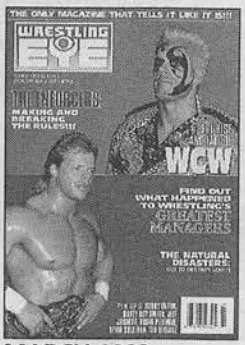

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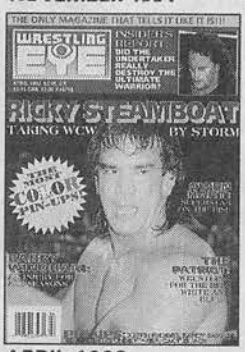

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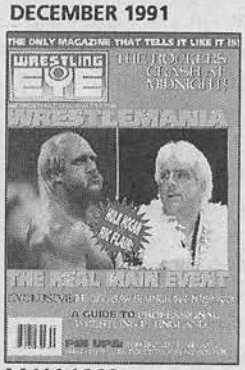

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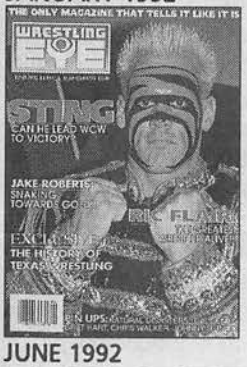

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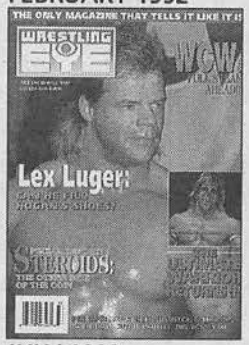

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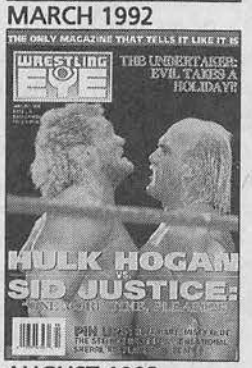

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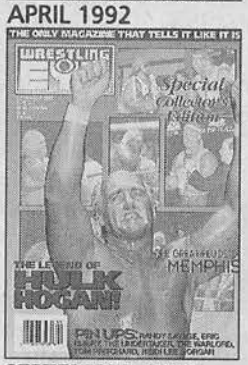

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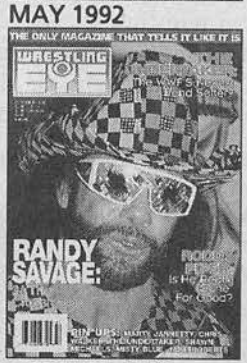

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The Midgets

BY DON LAIBLE

It's the little things that count in professional wrestling. Promoters today, in light of dwindling arena attendance figures and television ratings are worrying when the sport's popularity will finally get back on the up-swing. With a rocky economical climate, creative minds are working overtime to figure out what they can do to liven up their presentations. Surely there isn't a single element to cause the reversal however, re-evaluating their booking practices concerning midget wrestlers would be an intelligent starting line.

There's been an overhaul in The White House, why not in professional wrestling's leadership? Promoters should realize that the midgets are a valuable commodity and many fans would love to see more of their matches.

Pepe Lopez takes a bite out of Little Tokyo.

Butch Cassidy challenges the Giant Tiger of Universal Wrestling Superstars.

Still, it's never too late to repent in making the sport a truly equal opportunity employer. Remember, a wrestling card's success at the box-office is measured by how well the entire package is wrapped. In most instances one match is not going to make or break the production. And, if there were a championship up for grabs even in the midget division, fans would be willing to shell out their hard dollars to see who would ultimately walk off with the gold.

Several decades ago while mat idols like Gorgeous George and "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers were wowing their audiences, Sky Low Low, Little Beaver and Fuzzy Cupid, leading midget maulers, were enjoying followings of similar proportions with the younger crowd. A leading factor that still holds true today is that each midget rarely has an advantage over his opponent, either in girth or inches. There's a growing belief amongst the wrestling public that their sport needs to lighten up, literally as well as figuratively. Well, the midgets are here to do just that.

Wrestling is a form of entertainment, fans are supposed to enjoy it's product and leave the arenas with a smile. Traditionally, the midgets have always been the most athletically entertaining ingredient to any card. This is not to say they are walking clowns; quite the contrary. Current stars Little Louie and Little Tokyo train as diligently as their larger counterparts, only they ham it up a bit more, to be unique and add diversity to the package.

Funny, daring, always unpredictable, it's a true sin that the midgets aren't working more. Fear not, while promoters are being instructed to "chill out" and return to more traditional values while presenting their game, there does appear to be a glimmer of light at the end of the wrestling tunnel for midget wrestlers.

Little Louie, based in Scarboro, Maine and Little Tokyo who lives in the Mid-West, are roughing these uncertain times and are determined to lead their colleagues back to prominence. Both feel that it's only a matter of time before the midgets will once again be given their fair chance in the ring. Both are ready, willing and able to go on a moment's notice should the call come in from promoters seeking their professional services.

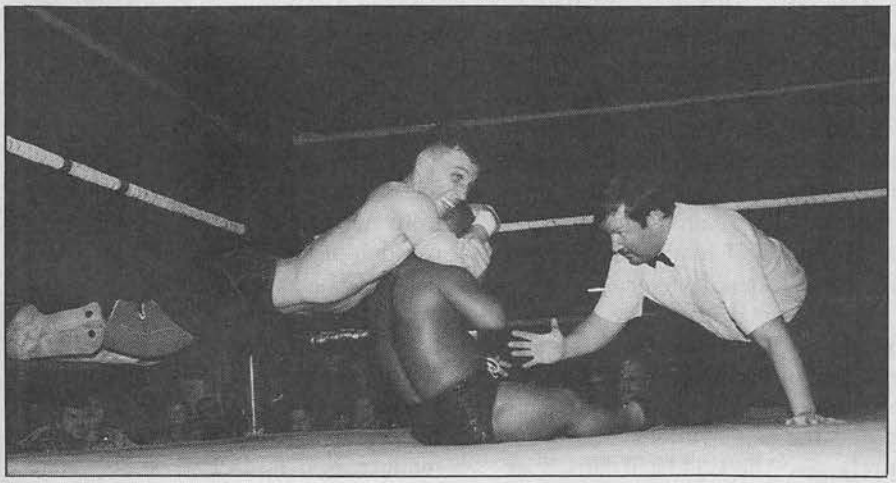
Neither man has survived in such a competitive game where

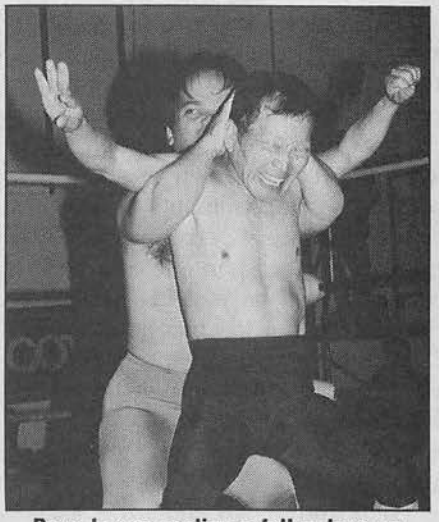
March On!

egos usually are twice as large as the body, without sticking to their principles. Louie, a veteran of twenty years of ring tom-foolery appears the same as when he was a rookie. He's enjoyed a storybook career thus far. In the mid-1970's, he co-held the midget tag team title with Sonny Boy Hayes. Louie defended his belt in all the major arenas and shared dressing rooms with legends like Andre the Giant and Bruno Sammartino, among others.

Little Louie is determined to see to it that the midget division will have an abundance of skilled performers, because he knows it's just a matter of time before promoters turn the tide in recognizing the importance of a diversified line-up. He's seen and done it all, over and

Butch Cassidy uses the ropes to his advantage during a match with The Haiti Kid.





Pepe Lopez applies a full nelson on Little Tokyo.

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over. Louie has faced them all over his illustrious career. Such midget notables like Tiger Jackson, The Irish Leprechaun, and Butch Cassidy are among the challengers Louie has sent home disappointed in defeat in the Northeast.

Little Tokyo has been plugging away, well ahead of the midget squad throughout the Central States and Mid-West for the better part of the last fifteen years. Although Tokyo doesn't slow down to reflect on past accomplishments in favor of recruiting new personnel to break in to the sport, he could easily do so if he wished. He won the midget's world championship in 1979. This was no phantom title, no, no. Tokyo was one of the privileged few to ever wear this belt and he did so with pride, grace and honor.

Louie and Tokyo know that aside from coaching, they must play politics to keep as busy as possible. It's not unlikely that both will log more than 500 miles per week enroute to bookings. Mixed matches, where each forms a team with a female wrestler have become quite popular. And both wrestlers are convinced that the usage of midgets on cards will return to a level high of fifteen years ago. Why?

Louie easily can give you an earful in explaining. "Wrestling fans in Portland, Oregon, San Antonio, Texas, or Youngstown, Ohio, for example are desperately hungry for something new to cheer about at the matches. With all due respect, the fans have been getting the same old story from the major leagues on a national level now for about eight or nine years. That's a major reason why many fans simply don't bother to patronize the arenas as much as they once did."

It's sad that the United States doesn't make more use of it's midget talent. Countries in South America and the Orient give their midget talent all the work they can handle. On a recent bill in Japan's Yokohama Stadium, before 30,000 onlookers, a midget tag contest was presented. The hooded, pint-size maulers put on a delightful exhibition of science and strength. Amigo Ultra rolled up Valtaman II in a "small package" maneuver to have his team declared victorious.

There's no reason why Louie, Tokyo, or The Haiti Kid, a regular member of Universal Wrestling Superstars touring troop, can't be afforded the same luxury. They could surely give thousands of fans Stateside a dose of midget mania! Promoters must realize that they need to do something in order to attract fans back to the arenas. If they need to learn how best to utilize midgets on their presentations, all they should do is ask. Louie or Tokyo would graciously accept roles as goodwill ambassadors.

Veteran wrestling fans, specifically those settling for watching the matches on television only these days and those rapidly leaning towards a new favorite pastime should have little hesitation in identifying with and placing their trust in either or both these loveable slammers.

Midgets need to be allowed to define their versatility in between the ring ropes. They aren't demanding equal marquee billing opposite Sting or Bret Hart. They just want an opportunity to do their thing on a major league card. Seems to us that's not asking too much.

Just the sight of Louie sinking his teeth into Tiger Jackson's trunks from the rear or Tokyo slapping his wooden slippers repeatedly on the head of challenger Pepe Lopez brings out bellows of laughter from the audiences. Promoters ought to realize, midget wrestlers are good for the fan's stress reduction from the real world. Most people pushing for increased midget wrestlers visibility on cards today see the situation as a nothing to lose and everything to gain proposition. So, the same question pops up. Well, what are you promoters waiting for?! □

Little Louie is victorious after yet another grueling match.

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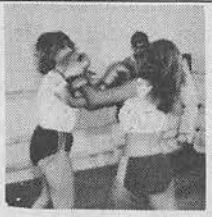

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Another three lovely teenagers: ALEXANDRA–IRA–VANESSA in a small tournament with great matches of a high standard. They really fight like wild–cats and at the end Italian beauty Vanessa comes out as winner nevertheless she has to absorb a very painfully injured knee. All matches are barefoot.

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HANNI, a 32 year old novice is in for a pretty rough time but SHANAN has to use all of her experience to beat the strong lady / PETSI:SILKE too much for the game teenager, Petsi gives her a lesson and finishes her completely.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I've been reading many magazines to find about Hulk Hogan. I really hope he comes back to wrestle for the WWF soon. I miss him and his 24 inch pythons! I think Hogan should come back just to teach Ric Flair a lesson once and for and run him out of the sport altogether. After all, these two really never settled the score properly. Come on Hogan it's time you return. You don't really want Hulkamania to die, do you?

Lillian Broniek
New Haven, Ct

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I am a a big fan of pro wrestling and I have been following this great sport since June of 1975. I enjoy the WWF and WCW and I like the smaller promotions as well.

I am also a fan of the women wrestlers and I like all the stories you do on them. My all-star women's battle royal would be as follows: Debbie Combs, Misty Blue, Madusa Miceli, Heidi Lee Morgan, Terri Power, Judy Martin, Bambi, Kat Leroux, Linda Dallas, Candi Divine and Magnificent Mimi.

Marc Pecoraro
Fairlawn, NJ

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I think there's something you've realized but haven't printed yet. The fact is, Ric Flair, Razor Ramon and Shawn Michaels are nothing but show-offs.

Ric Flair's a show-off because of the way he talks. Did you see him when he won the Royal Rumble. He couldn't stop boasting about himself. What arrogance! He also thinks he's the best dressed in the WWF — NOT! Macho Man gets top honors for that.

Razor Ramon, so-called Mr. Machismo, he's a really big show-off also. You think you're the only man with machismo in the WWF. Well let me tell you something; you say "Men are men, women are only women. Men take what they want." Well I say; Men are men, women are women, woman and man take whatever they want but Razor Ramon accepts!

The biggest show-off of all time is Shawn Michaels. Did you ever see his interviews? I have and I think they're really tacky! Shawn acts like a four year old in the ring. I can't understand how anybody could like him.

Brook Goodman
Paris, France

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

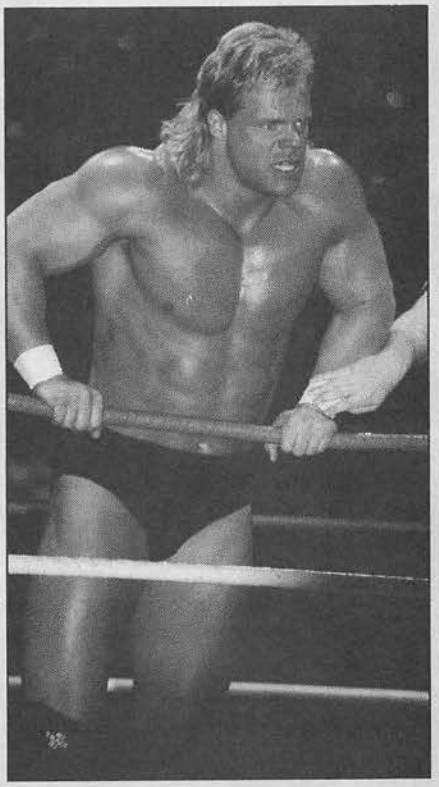
In your Dec issue a reader wrote in to say that Randy Savage is a really bad wrestler. Well I certainly don't think so. I think Randy can hold his own against any wrestler. He lost his beloved WWF strap because of outside interference. I say, if he was such a bad wrestler then why was he the two time WWF Heavyweight champion and the one time Intercontinental champion as well. To me, Randy Savage is a true winner, even without a belt. He'll always be #1 in my book!

Ulrike Sandner
Nuremberg, Germany

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I am writing to find out why I have never seen an article on one of, if not the best wrestler on the East Coast — A.C. Golden.

I have been watching wrestling for almost twenty years and have attended a number of WWF and WCW (NWA) shows. For the past year or so I've been attending the independent shows and this man really stands out from the rest. His muscular definition is equal to if not better than any other wrestler on these cards. his wrestling ability and agility are well above average for someone in the 250 pound range. I believe if given the chance A.C. Golden would make an impact on any federation, including the two major ones !!



Lex Luger still has loyal fans out there!

I have seen articles devoted to Tommy Jannetty, Ricky Blues, Rasta the Voodoo Mon, Metal Maniac and A.C. is clearly better than them.

A.C. ALWAYS has time for his fans. I attend about 5 cards a month and I have never seen him reject a fan's request for an autograph, pictures or just to talk. I have seen him stay around

long after all the other wrestlers are gone.

In my opinion, a wrestler with A.C. Golden's many fine qualities deserves more recognition. I hope he gets it shortly.

Joe Alimo
Owingsmills, Mo

Dear WRESTLING EYE,

I am hoping that Lex Luger returns to professional wrestling in the very near future. The "Total Package" was a great athlete who really knew his way around the ring. When he battled Ric Flair, I know I was on the edge of my seat and I'm sure many other fans were as well.

The sport needs a new leader to take over and bring wrestling back into the limelight. In my opinion, Lex Luger is just the man to do that. If he were to enter the WWF he would capture Bret Hart's Heavyweight title in no time flat. Then the world would really know how a true champion behaves. Come back Lex, we sure miss you!

Alyssa Morgan
Colts Neck, NJ

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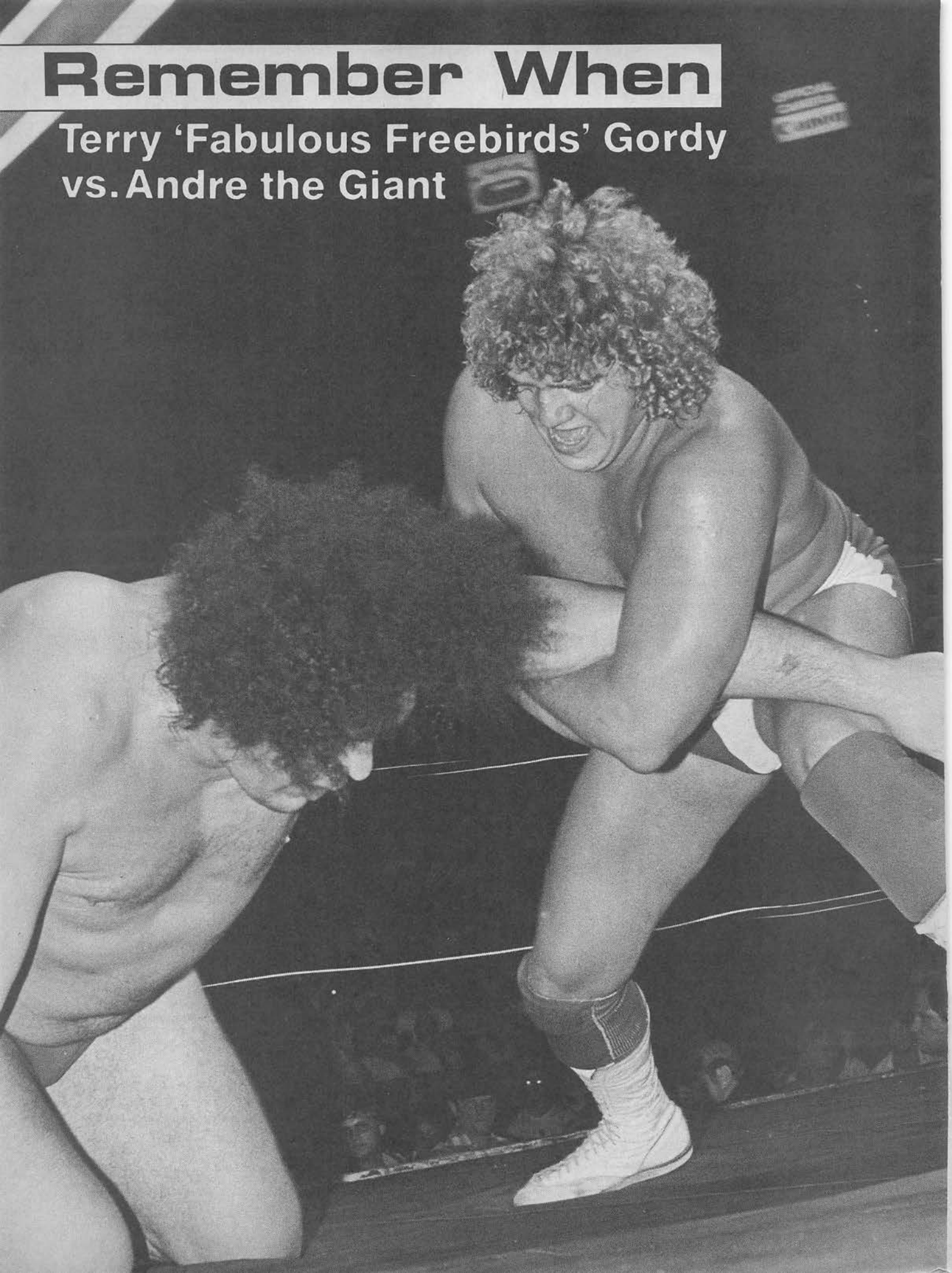

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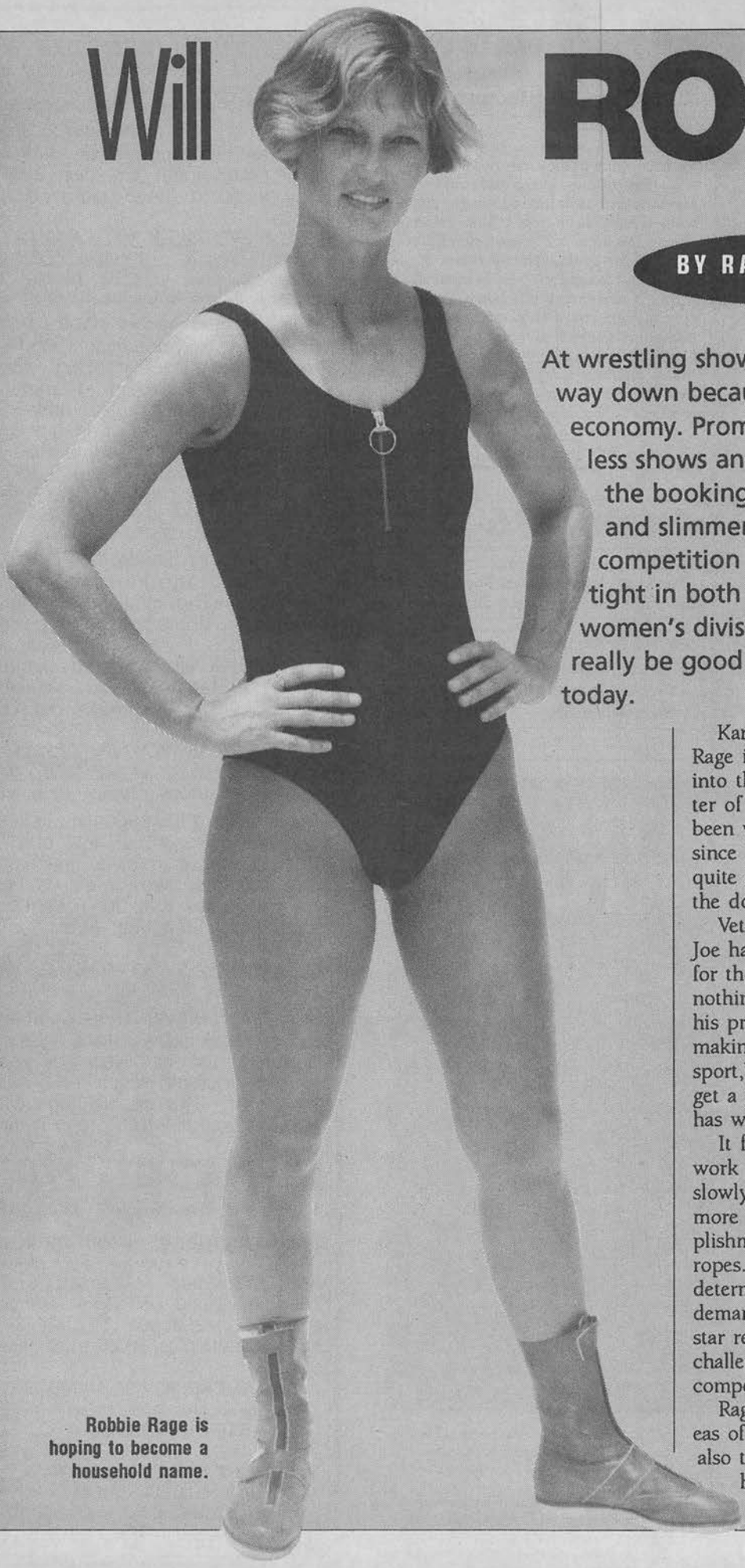
Will ROBBIE

BY RANDY POWELL

At wrestling shows, attendance is way, way down because of the weak economy. Promoters are scheduling less shows and for many wrestlers the bookings are getting slimmer and slimmer. As a result, the competition in the rankings is very tight in both the men's and women's divisions. A wrestler must really be good to get on a card today.



Photos by Randy Powell

Robbie Rage is hoping to become a household name.

Kansas City wrestler, Robbie Rage is facing the battle of breaking into the ranks of the women's roster of wrestlers. Even though she's been working hard at her craft since 1986, she's finding it to be quite a challenge to get her foot in the door.

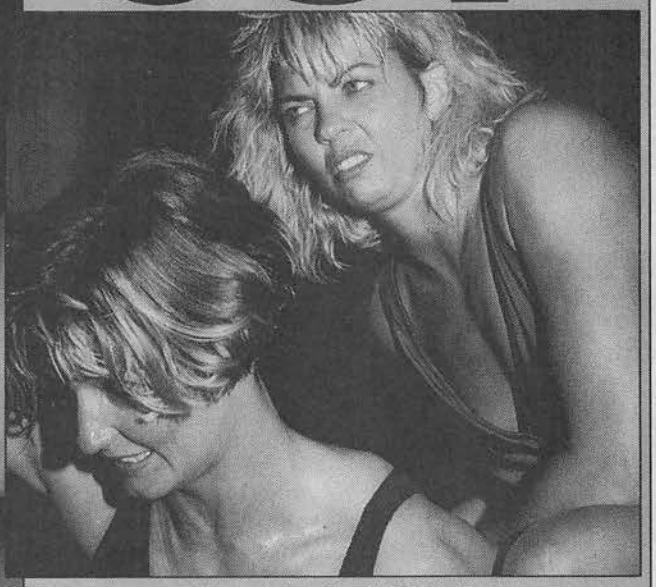
Veteran grappling great, Gypsy Joe has been working with Robbie for the past few years and has nothing but the greatest respect for his protege. "Robbie has all the makings of going really far in the sport," he stated. "Now, she's got to get a fair shot to prove she really has what it takes to be a superstar."

It finally seems like all her hard work is paying off as Robbie is slowly but surely gaining more and more recognition for her accomplishments in between the ring ropes. When asked why she was so determined to make it in such a demanding sport, the pretty new star replied, "I enjoy the physical challenge and I can be extremely competitive."

Rage has wrestled in various areas of the United States and she also toured Japan last summer. As her popularity grows she is finally beginning to feel like

RAGE Be The Rage In '93?

Divine slips out of an armbar by using Robbie's chin.



A sneering Candi Divine tightens up on a painful hammerlock.

she's meeting a few of the many goals she has set for her career. "Wrestling has been good to me so far," Robbie said. "It's a tough and competitive business but I love it. The fans really make everything worthwhile for me."

Candi Divine has been Rage's most aggressive opponent to date. She sneers at Robbie's challenges yet she never fails to accept any of them and the hatred between these two has been steadily growing stronger and stronger. "Robbie is a tough and rough competitor and has a certain disregard for the rules," Candi explained. "She uses lots of high flying maneuvers and I find that to be a challenge." When asked about her ring style, Rage replied, "I like to catch my opponents off guard and clobber them. So far my strategy has been working!"

Not much is known about Rage by the other women wrestlers and that's just fine with her. "All they need to know is that I'm coming for them. I intend to have every championship belt there is for the taking and no one will stand in my way," Robbie promised.

When Robbie is not wrestling she enjoys spending time with friends and playing racquetball and golf. Her nights are filled with dining out at Mexican restaurants and then dancing until the wee hours at Rock 'n Roll clubs.

Look for some great things from Robbie Rage. She's attractive athletic and loves the action of pro wrestling. Yes, Robbie certainly has the makings of being a phenomenal female grappler! □

Candi Divine is out to halt Rage's fledgling career.

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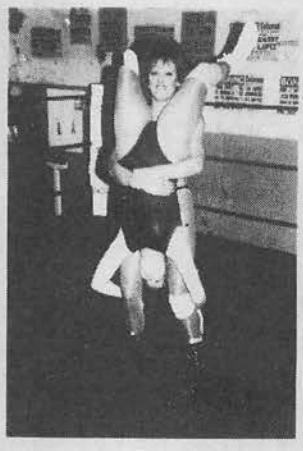

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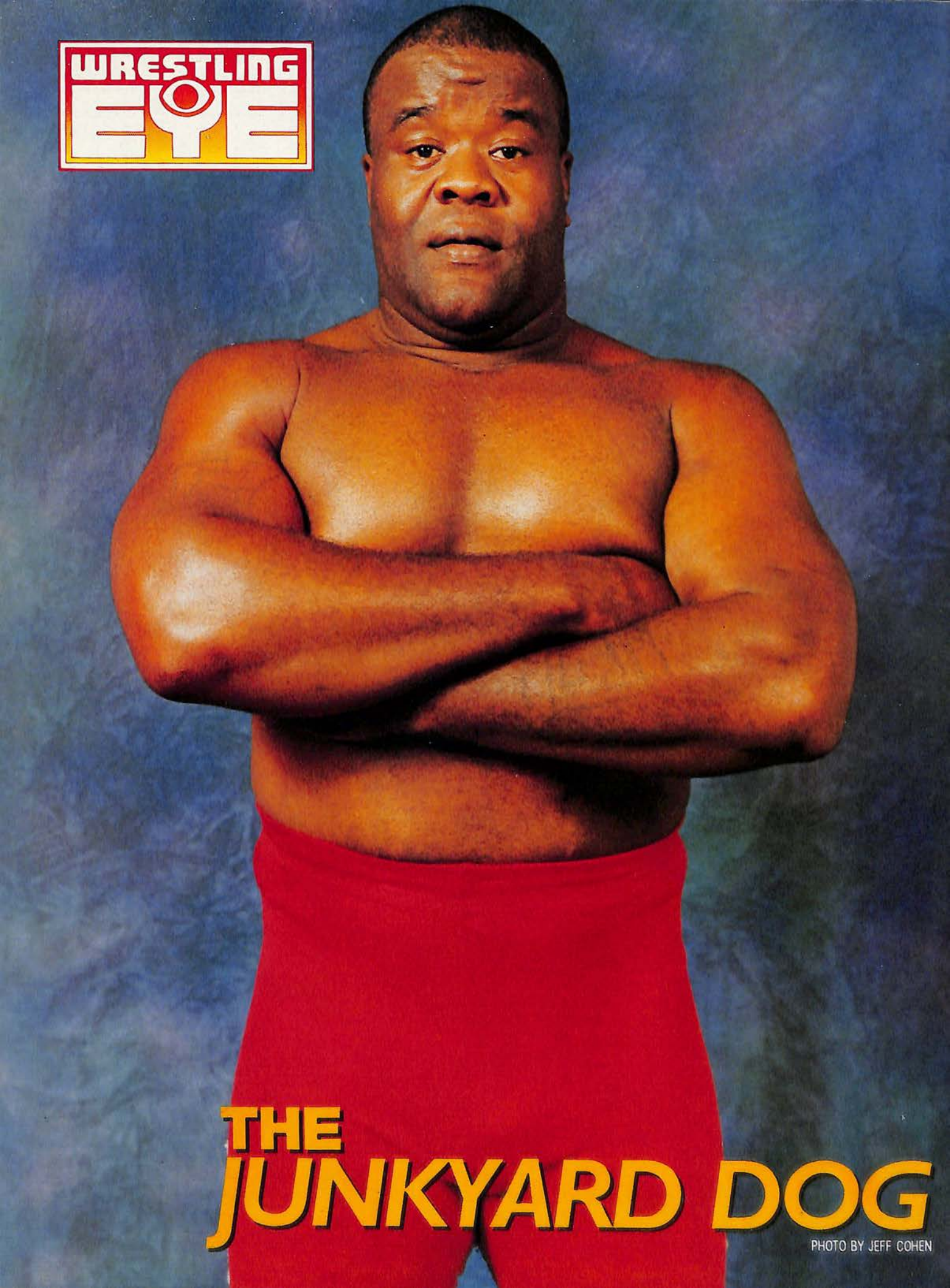
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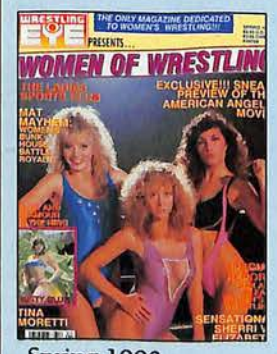

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